ARPEGGIO'S Story Guide

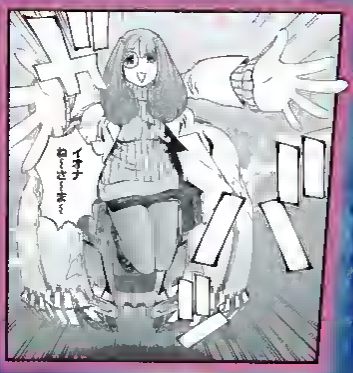
STORY

The crew of the 401 encounters a mysterious submarine – the German U-2501. The I-401 is depleted after its fight with two large battle-ships, and struggles against it. However, for some reason, the enemy doesn't try to sink them, and instead orders them to surrender. When the 401 surfaces, they meet Zoldan Starke, a man who knows Gunzou's father. Meanwhile, Makie has encountered Haruna, and invites her home without realizing that she is a mental model. The military attempts to take Haruna out. The home of Laurence Osakabe, creator of the designer child Makie, bursts into flame.

Guezou realizes there is nothing he can do, and accepts an unconditional surrender in order to survive.

The crew of the I-401 struggles as the enemy enticipetes their movements. Gunzou wonders if the enemy is a humen, insteed of e mentel model.

The captain of the U-2501, Zoldan Starke. The U-2501 is a Fog Ship without a mental model.



The heavy cruiser Takao awaits the I-401 at Iwo Jima.

The large battleship Hyuuga was sunk by the I-401 and only her core remains. She was formerly the Eastern Theatre Patrol Fleet flagship.

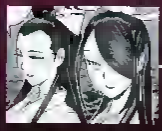
New Characters

Zoldan Starke

Captain of the U-2501. He greatly respects Gunzou's father, Shouzou Chihaya.

Hyuuga

A Fog battleship sunk by the I-401. She worships Ione.



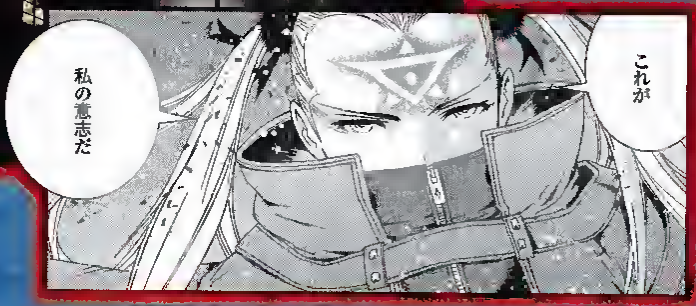
Nagato

A Fog large battleship. She commands the Eastern Theatre's second Fleet

Prime Minister Makoto

Prime minister of the northern sector. One of the designer children.

Makie accompanies Haruna. This will cause a great tragedy.



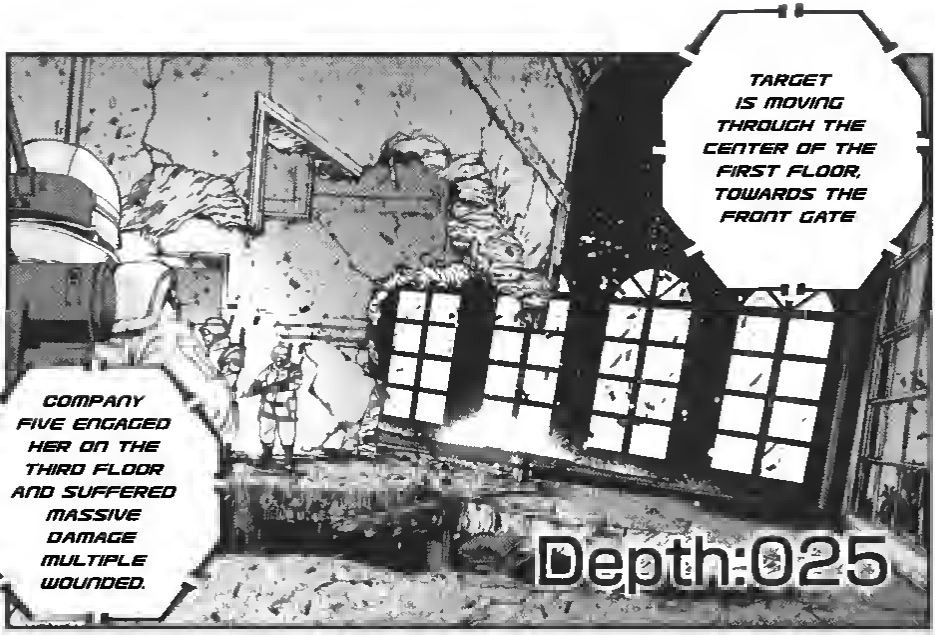
The army attacks the Osakabe mansion! Haruna's "will" begins to erupt!

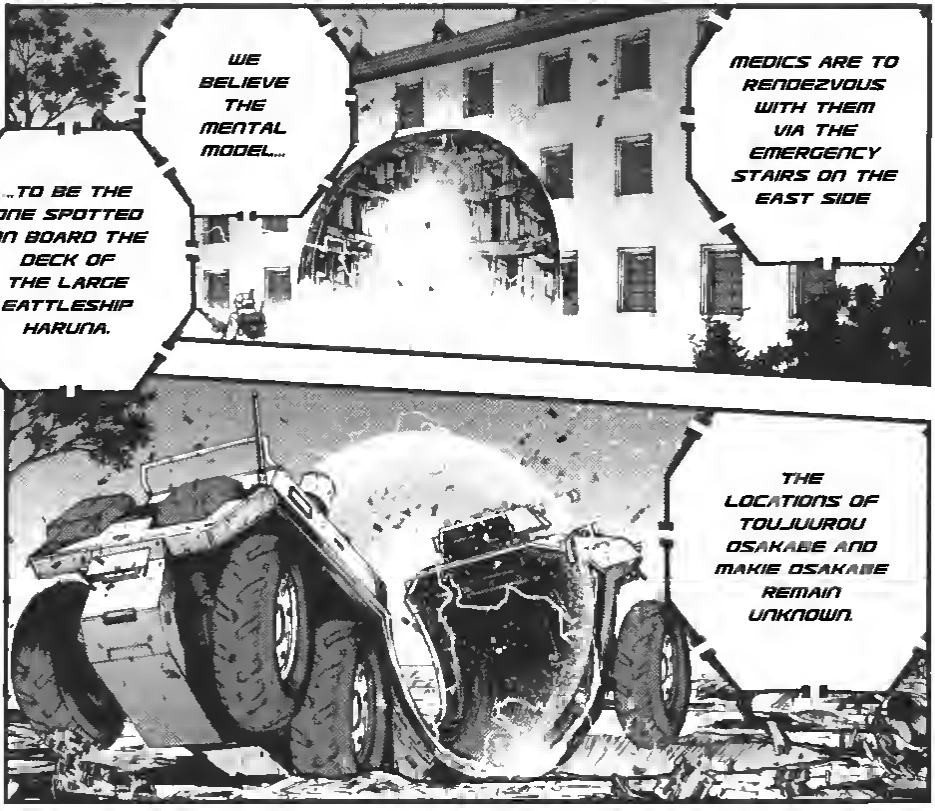
CONTENTS

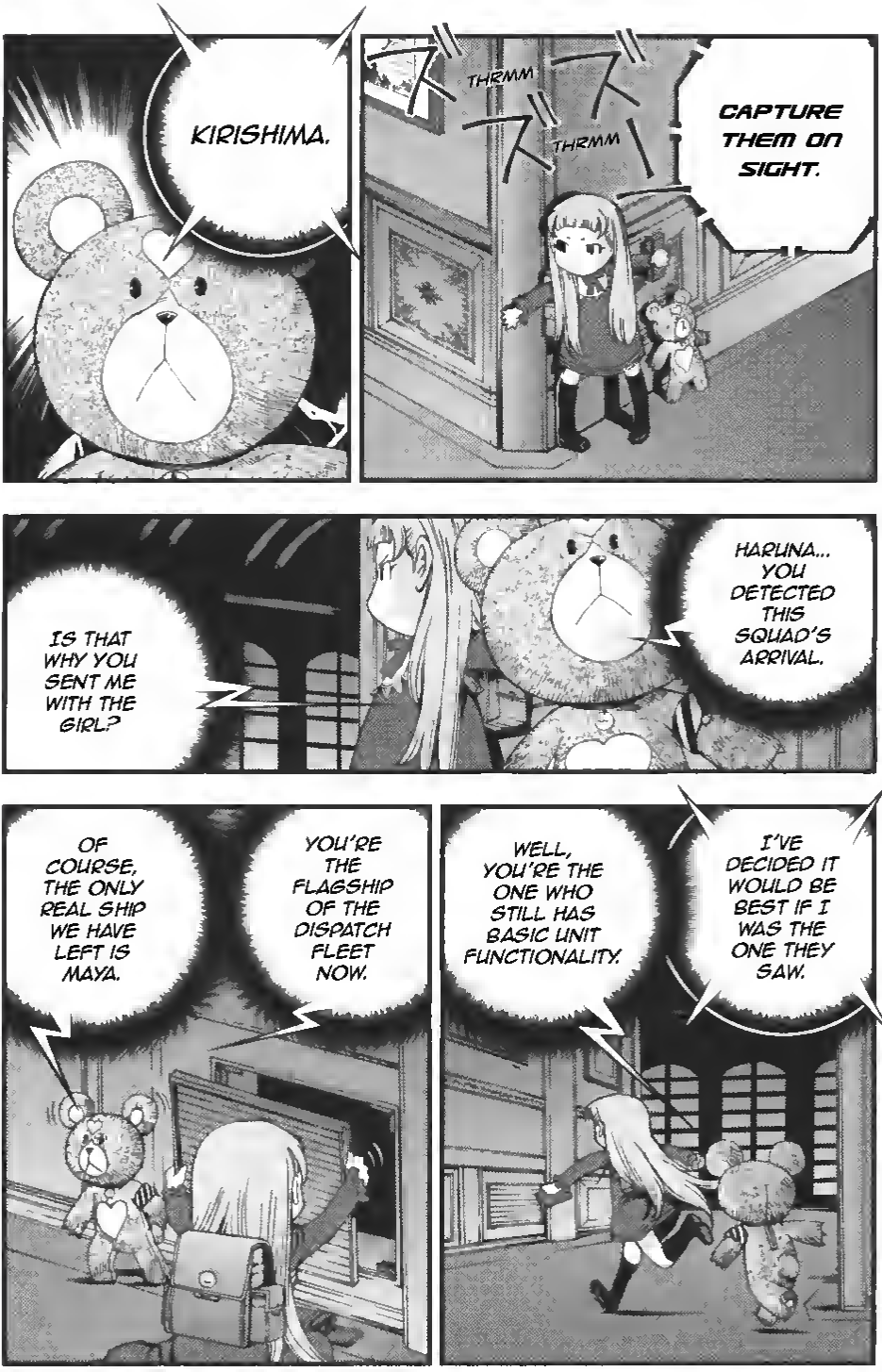
Depth:025 005
Depth:026 037
Depth:027 067
Depth:028 097
Depth:029 126
Depth:030 159

YOUNG KING COMICS

YKC"ARPEGGIO OF BLUE STEEL" Ark Performance Presents!!
The torpedo is launched by the submarine.
It is terrible destructive power. Take care not to hit.


TARGET IS MOVING THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE FIRST FLOOR, TOWARDS THE FRONT GATE
COMPANY FIVE ENGAGED HER ON THE THIRD FLOOR AND SUFFERED MASSIVE DAMAGE MULTIPLE WOUNDED.
Depth:025


WE BELIEVE THE MENTAL MODEL...
MEDICS ARE TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THEM VIA THE EMERGENCY STAIRS ON THE EAST SIDE
...TO BE THE ONE SPOTTED ON BOARD THE DECK OF THE LARGE BATTLESHIP HARUNA.
THE LOCATIONS OF TOUJUUROU OSAKABE AND MAKIE OSAKABE REMAIN UNKNOWN.

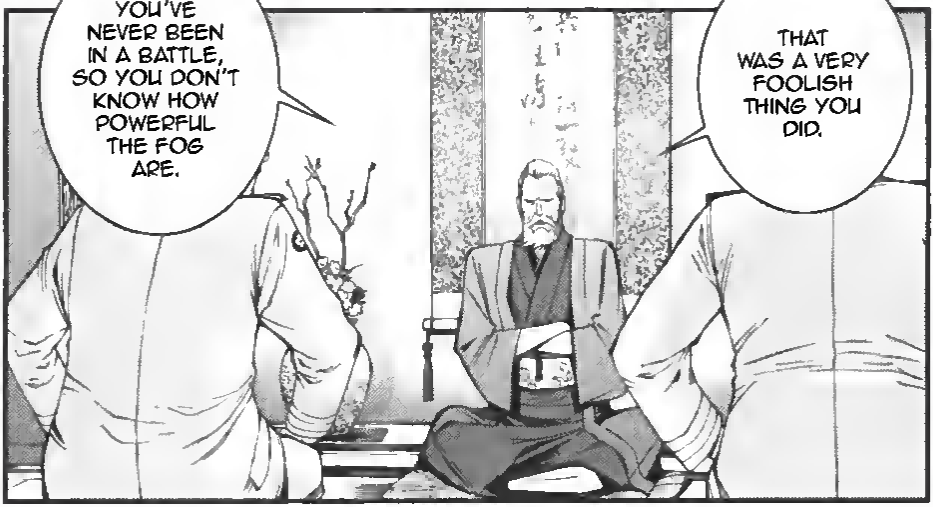

KIRISHIMA.
THRMM
THRMM
CAPTURE THEM ON SIGHT.
IS THAT WHY YOU SENT ME WITH THE GIRL?
HARUNA... YOU DETECTED THIS SQUAD'S ARRIVAL.
OF COURSE, THE ONLY REAL SHIP WE HAVE LEFT IS MAYA.
YOU'RE THE FLAGSHIP OF THE DISPATCH FLEET NOW.
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STILL HAS BASIC UNIT FUNCTIONALITY.
I'VE DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST IF I WAS THE ONE THEY SAW.

TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH YOU...
WHAT'S MAKIE UP TO?
...SINCE YOU SUPPOSEDLY WENT TO THE BATHROOM.
...AND MAKE CONTACT WITH MAYA.
GET MAKIE OUT OF HERE SOMEHOW...
ROGER. I'LL HANDLE IT SOMEHOW.
THEY'LL BE AFTER ME FOR A WHILE. I'LL DRAW THEIR ATTENTION.

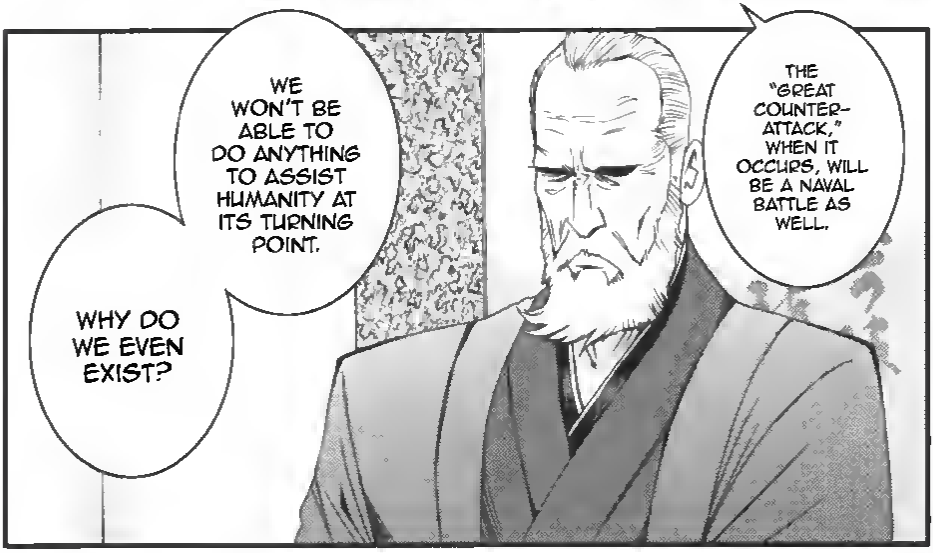
IF WE MAKE CONTACT WITH MAYA, SHE'LL REALIZE WE'RE WITH THE FOG.
HMPH-
I THINK IT'S BETTER THAT HAPPEN SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, BUT...
THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO GIVEN THE SITUATION. I'LL LET YOU HANDLE IT.
CLICK
HARUNA—! SHE HUNG UP!
BRRRINNNG
IT'S ME.
MR. KAMIKAGE, IM SORRY TO WAKE YOU UP
WHAT IS IT?
CLACK

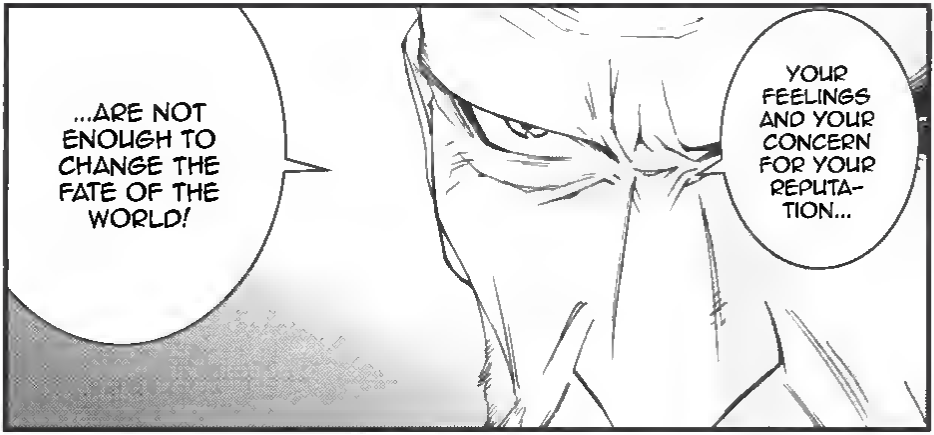
A SECTION OF THE MILITARY HAS DECIDED ON THEIR OWN TO ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THE MENTAL MODEL.
WE GOT THE MESSAGE ONE MINUTE AGO.
WHEN? WHERE?
I'LL SEND A CAR—
KASHAK
BEEP
THERE'S NO TIME. I'LL GO THERE MYSELF.
I'LL BE THERE IMMEDIATELY.
IT'S AT THE OSAKABE RESIDENCE. WHERE THE DESIGNER CHILD IS STORED. WE'RE TRYING TO GET MORE DETAILS.
12:10

CLICK
.....
CREAK
DIET MEMBER KITA?
NO...
HE WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING THIS RASH.
RUSTLE

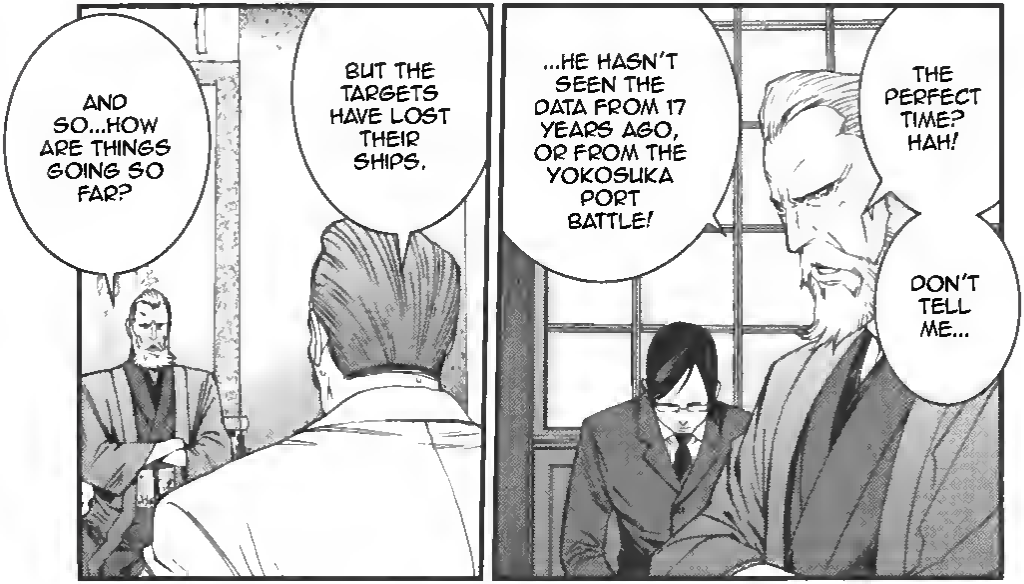

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN A BATTLE, SO YOU DON'T KNOW HOW POWERFUL THE FOG ARE.
THAT WAS A VERY FOOLISH THING YOU DID.

DURING THE NAVAL BATTLE WITH THE FOG 17 YEARS AGO, WE WERE FORCED TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES.
BUT MR. KITA, I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE ARMY FEELS.


WHY DO WE EVEN EXIST?
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO ASSIST HUMANITY AT ITS TURNING POINT.
THE "GREAT COUNTER-ATTACK," WHEN IT OCCURS, WILL BE A NAVAL BATTLE AS WELL.

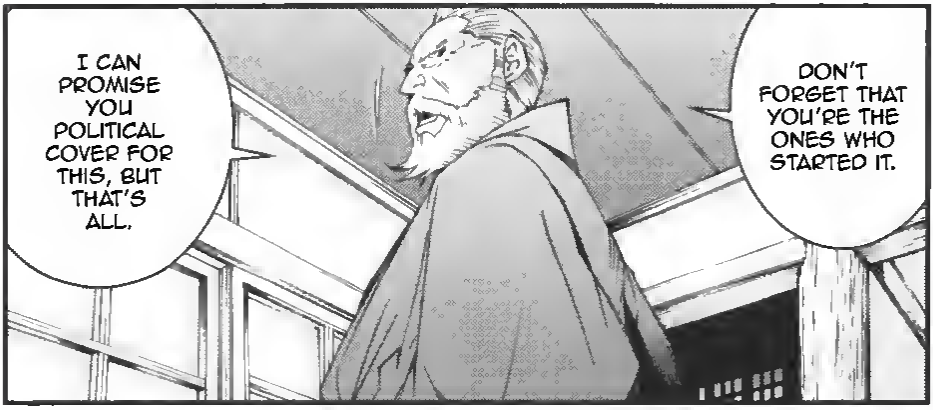

...ARE NOT ENOUGH TO CHANGE THE FATE OF THE WORLD!
YOUR FEELINGS AND YOUR CONCERN FOR YOUR REPUTA-TION...

HE PROBABLY THINKS IT'S THE PERFECT TIME FOR THE ARMY TO LIVE UP TO THE PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS.
THE COMMANDER OF THE 3RD EASTERN AREA GROUP IS A FELLOW NAMED MITSUMINE.


AND SO...HOW ARE THINGS GOING SO FAR?
BUT THE TARGETS HAVE LOST THEIR SHIPS.
...HE HASN'T SEEN THE DATA FROM 17 YEARS AGO, OR FROM THE YOKOSUKA PORT BATTLE!
THE PERFECT TIME? HAH!
DON'T TELL ME...

NO, YOU CAN'T MEAN... THAT'S...
PULL THAT SQUAD OUT SOMEHOW. NOW. AND IF YOU CAN'T...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I...
...THEY MAY BE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE ENTIRE NATION!
DON'T FORGET. EVEN IN THE STATE THEY'RE IN...
COMPARED TO THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, THE LIVES OF A SINGLE AREA GROUP ARE MEANINGLESS!
WHY DIDN'T YOU THINK OF THAT POSSIBILITY?

SHFF
YOU CAN'T.
BUT THAT'S...


I CAN PROMISE YOU POLITICAL COVER FOR THIS, BUT THAT'S ALL.
DON'T FORGET THAT YOU'RE THE ONES WHO STARTED IT.

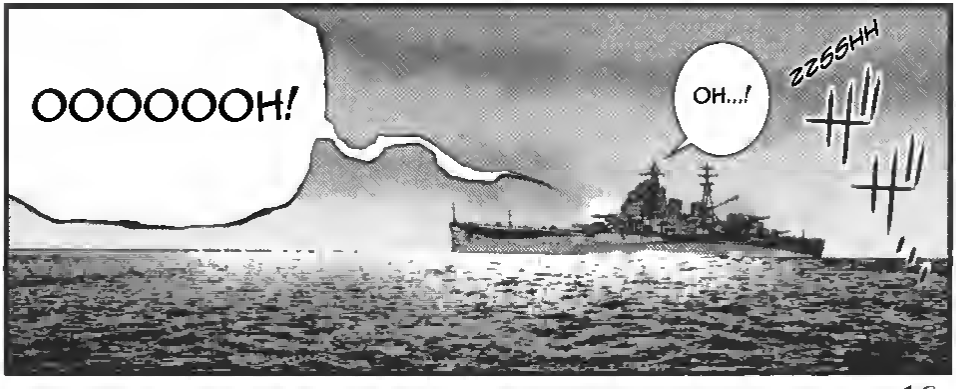
YOU STAY HERE AND GATHER INFORMATION FROM THE AREA.
I'M REPORTING THIS TO THE PRIME MINISTER. BRING THE CAR AROUND!
YES, SIR.

WE'RE SO SORRY.
.....

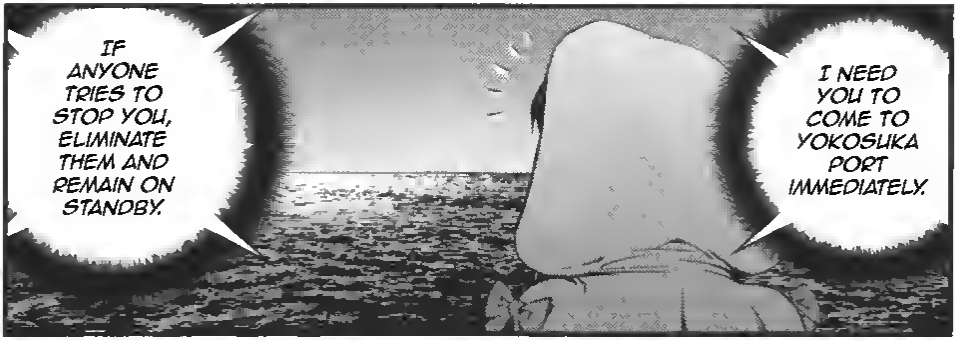
SHE'S NEAR THE FRONT ENTRANCE!
WHUP
TARGET SIGHTED.
WHUP
WHUP
CLINK
VWEEEM
BOOM

FSSSH

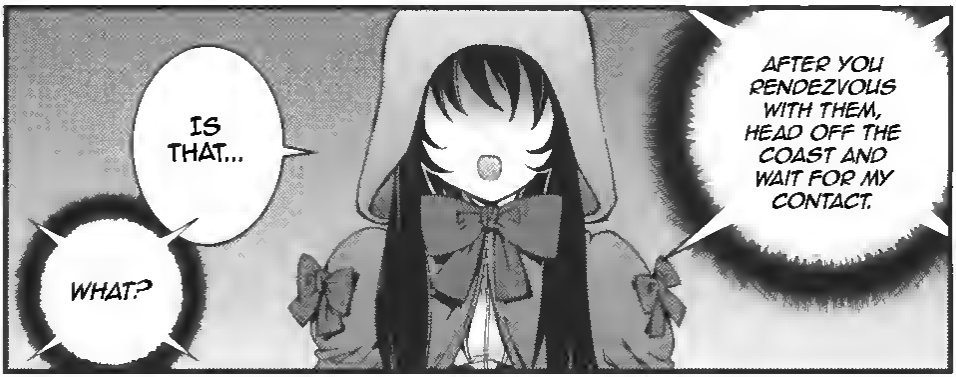
MAYA.


OOOOOOH!
OH...!
ZZSSHH

あーい
YAAAAY!
HARUNA, DARLING!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG!


I NEED YOU TO COME TO YOKOSUKA PORT IMMEDIATELY.
IF ANYONE TRIES TO STOP YOU, ELIMINATE THEM AND REMAIN ON STANDBY.

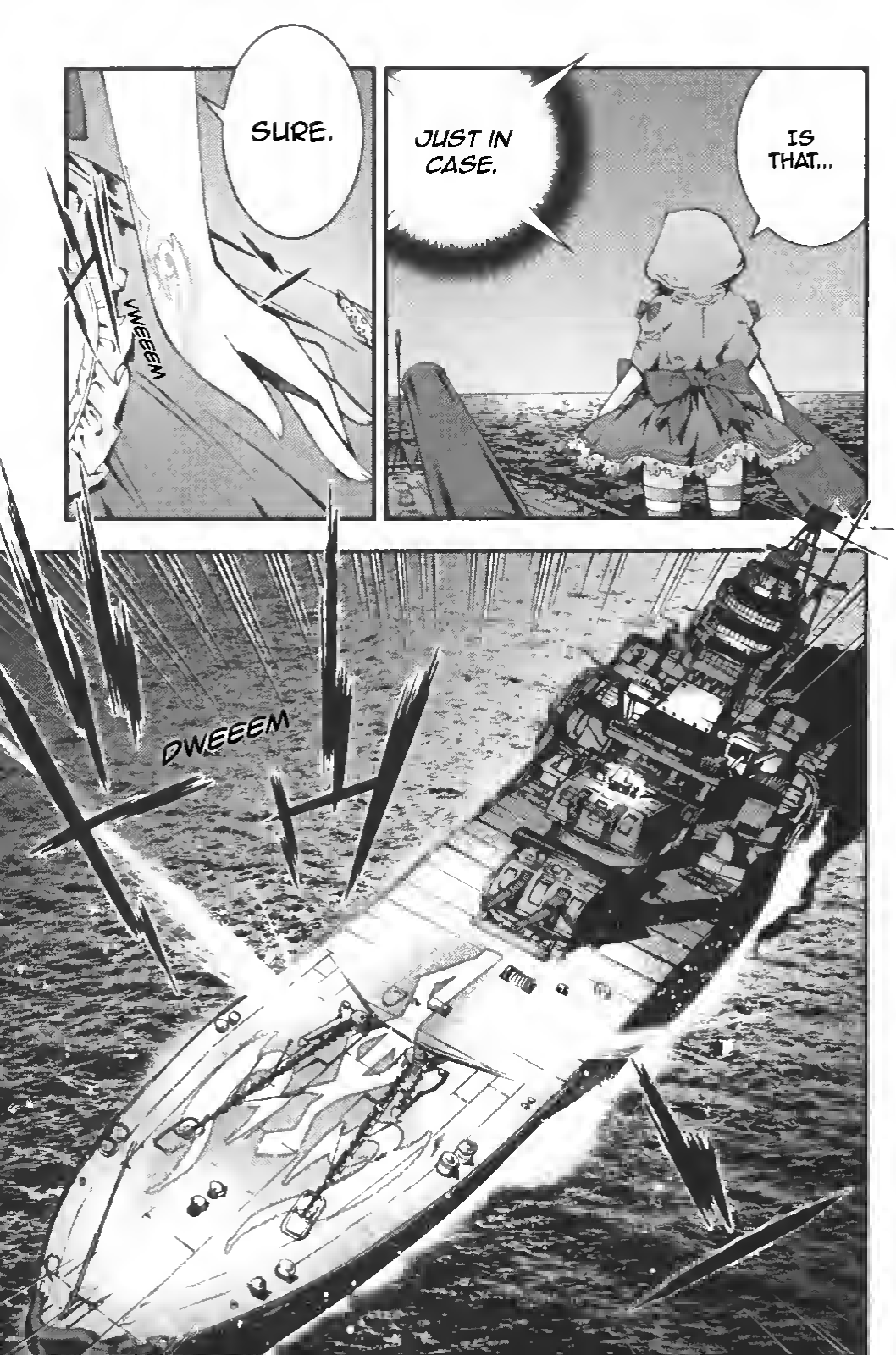
KIRISHIMA IS EN ROUTE THERE NOW.
SHE HAS A HUMAN WITH HER— TAKE THEM ABOARD TOO.

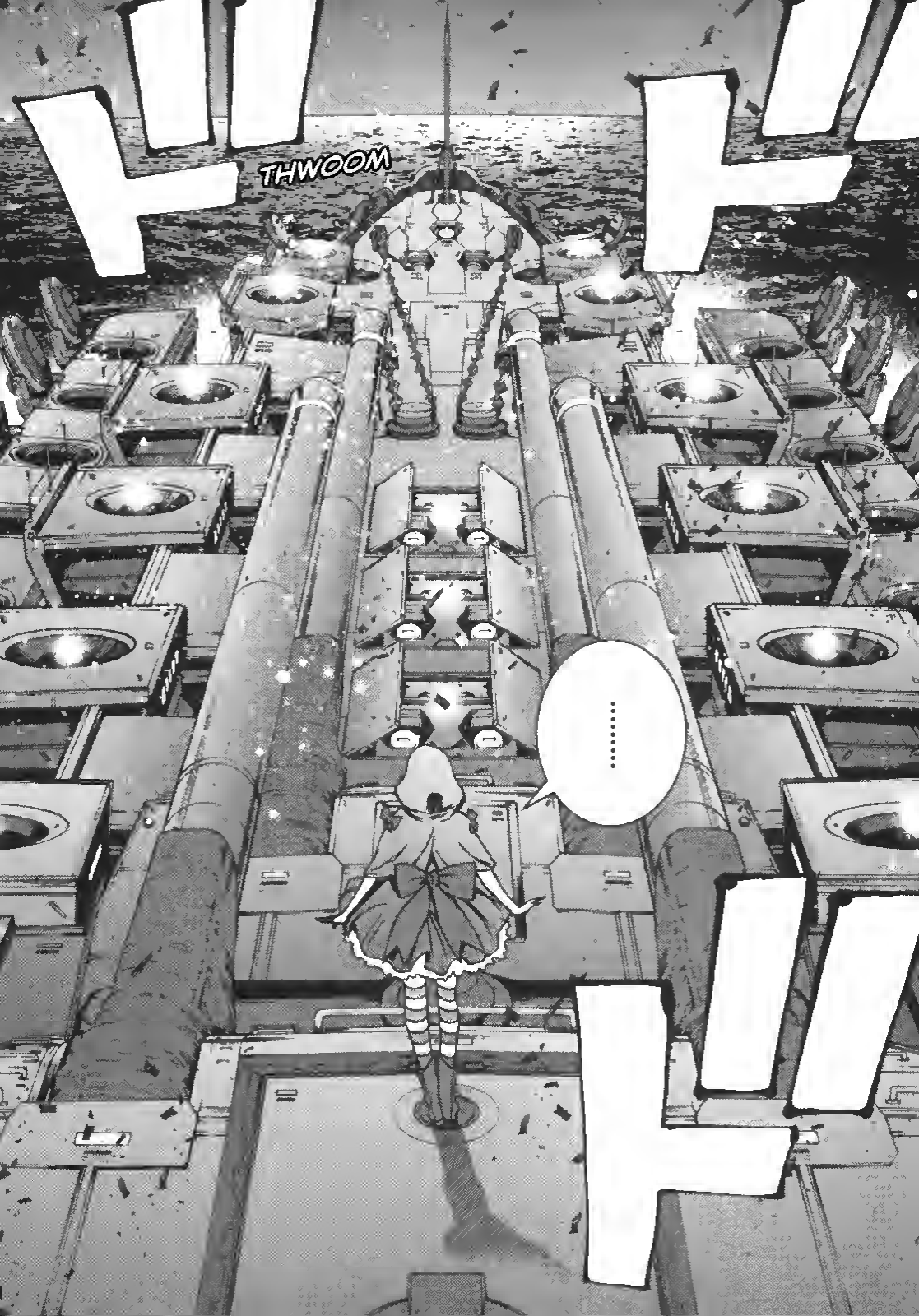

AFTER YOU RENDEZVOUS WITH THEM, HEAD OFF THE COAST AND WAIT FOR MY CONTACT.
IS THAT...
WHAT?

A MISSION?
YES.

WHAT'S WRONG?
.....
ほろ
ほろ
SOB
ほろ
SOB
THEY'RE ALL IGNORING ME!
I SANG THE SONG 189,567 TIMES AND THEY IGNORED THEM ALL!
BUT... BUT... EVERY-ONE...
NO CRYING!

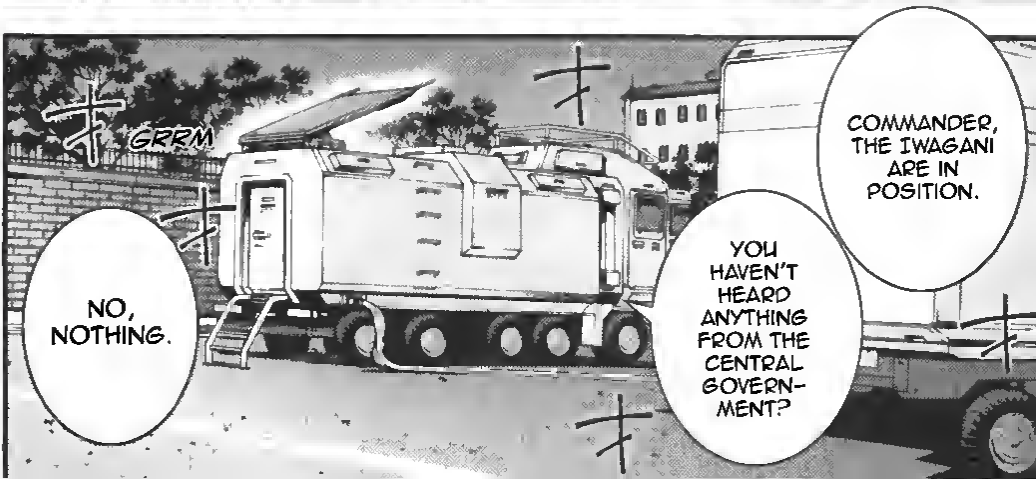
I WON'T FORGET THIS!
I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU GAVE ME A MISSION!
MOAN
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE FLAGSHIP OF MY HEART, HARUNA!
SMOOCH
SMOOCH
GET THIS! THAT KONGOU—
ENOUGH CHATTER.
THE BEHEMOTH IS HERE.
MAYA, LINK YOUR FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM TO ME.


SURE.
VWEEEM
JUST IN CASE.
IS THAT...
DWEEEM


THWOOM
.....

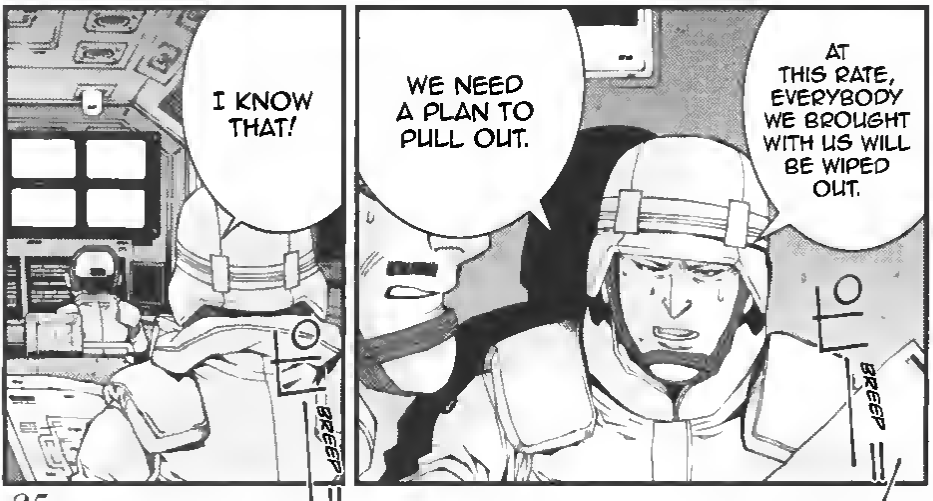
IT'S BEEN 17 YEARS.
THWOOM
GIGGLE

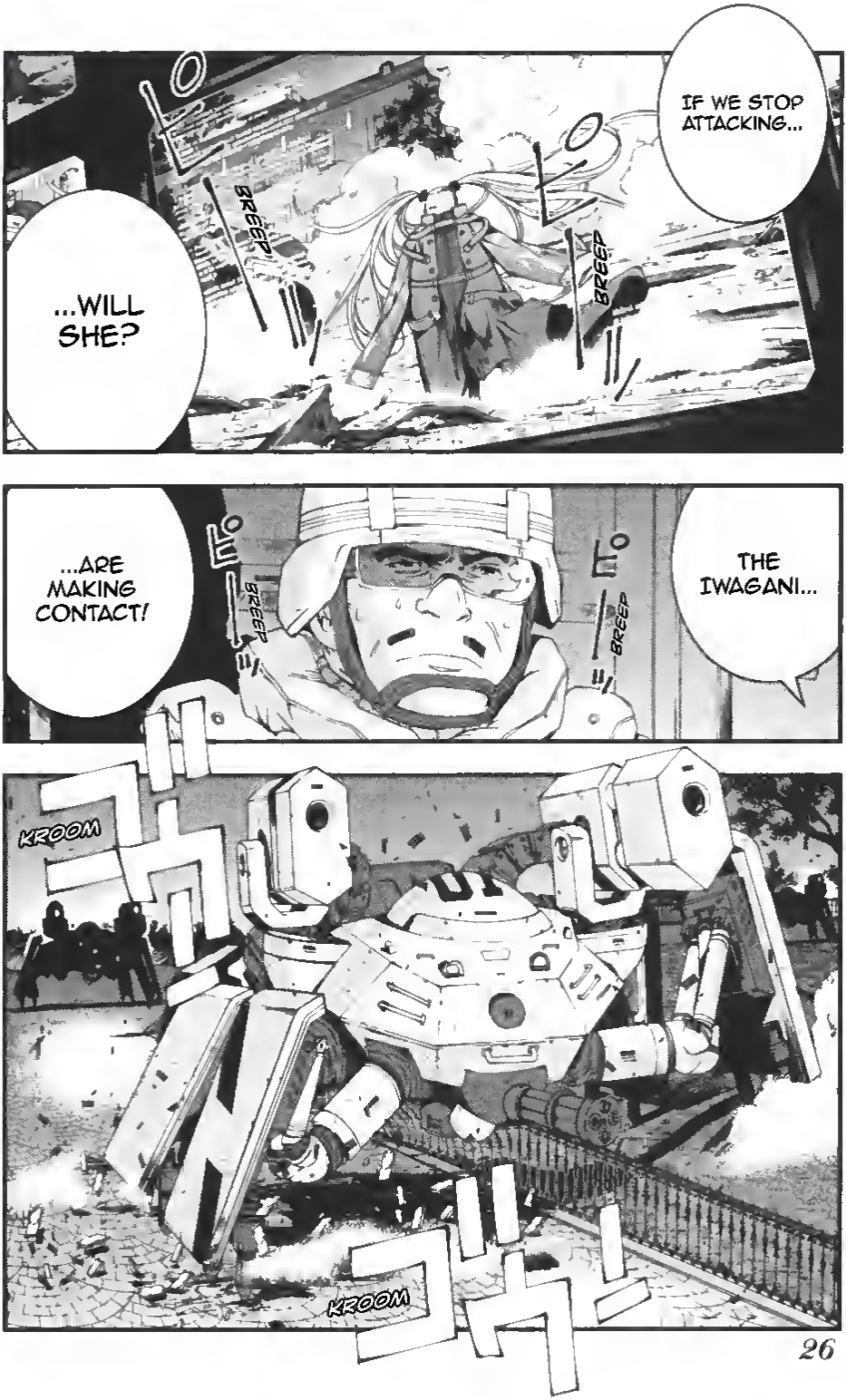
I'M AWAITING YOUR ORDERS...
...DISPATCH FLEET FLAGSHIP.


COMMANDER, THE IWAGANI ARE IN POSITION.
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERN-MENT?
GRRM
NO, NOTHING.

.....
OF COURSE NOT.
DO THEY PLAN TO ABANDON US?
BREEP
BREEP

...WOULD HAVE ALL THIS FIRE-POWER...?
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT A SINGLE MENTAL MODEL...
BREEP
BREEP

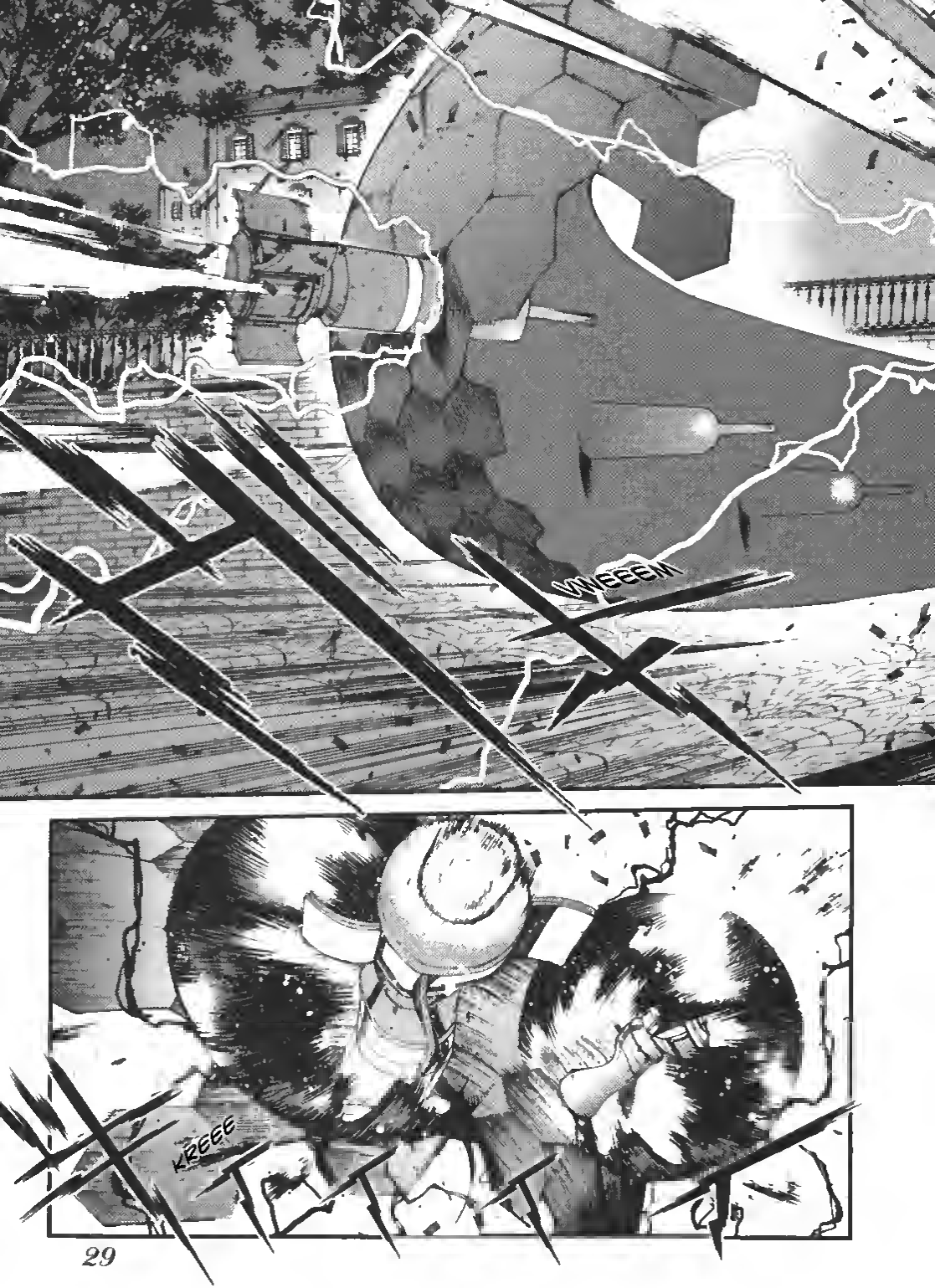

I KNOW THAT!
WE NEED A PLAN TO PULL OUT.
AT THIS RATE, EVERYBODY WE BROUGHT WITH US WILL BE WIPED OUT.
BREEP
BREEP

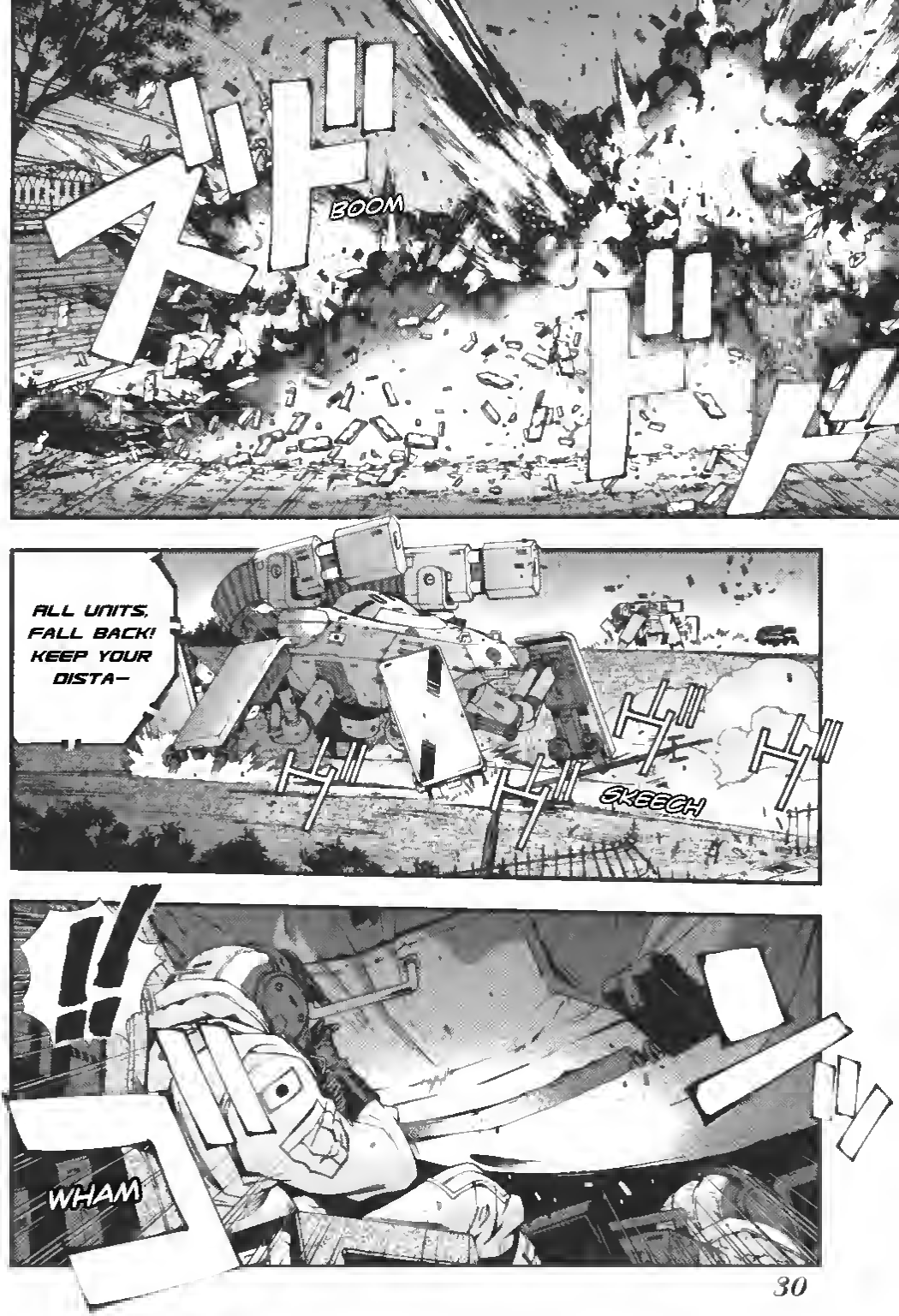

IF WE STOP ATTACKING...
BREEP
BREEP
...WILL SHE?
THE IWAGANI...
BREEP
BREEP
...ARE MAKING CONTACT!
KROOM
KROOM

ALL UNITS, LOAD LONG RANGE H.E. ROUNDS. TARGET THE MENTAL MODEL!
TARGET ISN'T MOVING.
ALL UNIT REPORT PREPARATIONS READY.
BEEP
01-Stand by
02
02-Stand by
03
03-Stand by
04-Stand by
FIRE!
BOOM
BOOM

FLASH

SHE STOPPED H.E. ROUNDS FROM A TANK?


VWEEEM
KREEE


ズドドドド
BOOM
ALL UNITS, FALL BACK! KEEP YOUR DISTA—
SKEECH
!!
WHAM

KRUNK
MO—
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO END UP A "CASUALTY," OR WHATEVER YOU CALL THEM...
GET OUT.

MONSTER!
BOOM
VWEEM

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
IT'S A BIG PARTY!

Depth:025／END

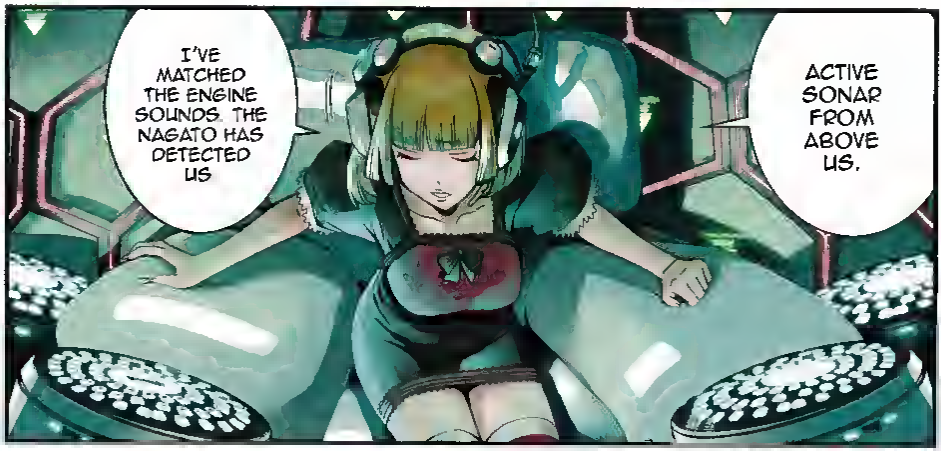
BLUE
STEEL

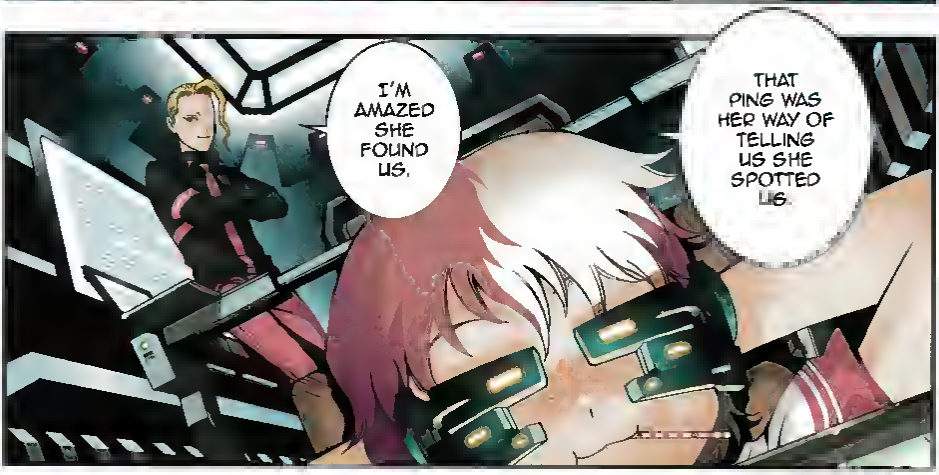
BLUE
STEEL

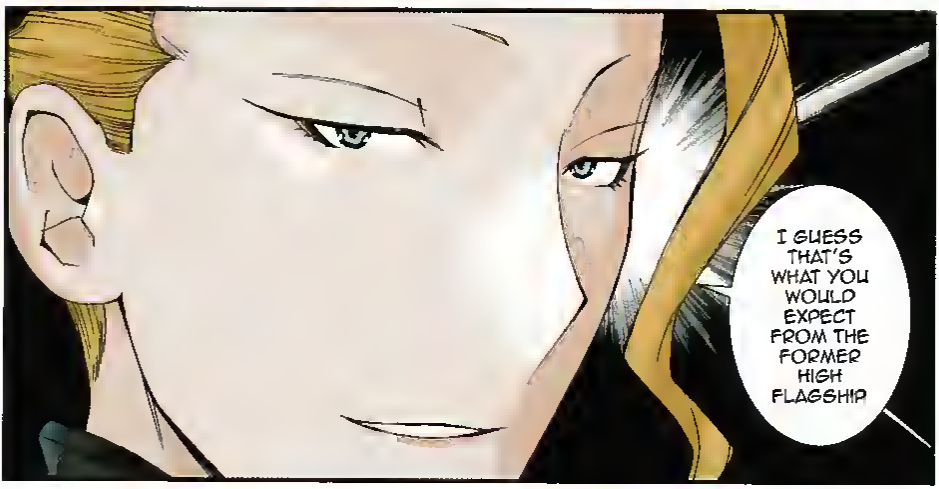
HEH HEH.
GROOOM
I FOUND YOU.
GWEEEN

Depth:26

U-2501


I'VE MATCHED THE ENGINE SOUNDS. THE NAGATO HAS DETECTED US
ACTIVE SONAR FROM ABOVE US.

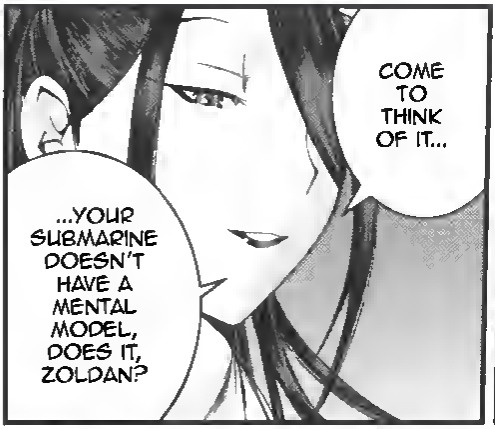

I'M AMAZED SHE FOUND US.
THAT PING WAS HER WAY OF TELLING US SHE SPOTTED US.

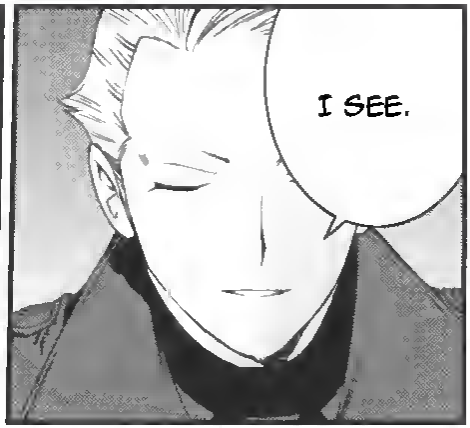

I GUESS THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT FROM THE FORMER HIGH FLAGSHIP

I CAN TALK TO HER MYSELF.
ROMUALD, CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION ON LAND AND MAYA'S ACTIVITIES.
ROGER.
THWOOOM

ARE YOU HERE TO SIT BACK AND WATCH?
OR ARE YOU GATHERING INFORMATION...
...ZOLDAN STARKE?
BOTH.
FLAGSHIP OF THE SECOND CRUISER FLEET.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WAITING FOR?
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ARE WAITING FOR?
THE EVENTS ON LAND ARE VERY INTERESTING.
BY THE WAY, ARE ADMIRAL CHIHAYA AND MUSASHI STILL DOING WELL?
AM I MISTAKEN, THEN?
OH...
...SO I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE ENTERTAINING TO MIMIC HUMAN CULTURE AND CUSTOMS.
ISN'T THIS HOW HUMANS GREET EACH OTHER?
I'VE GOT THIS WONDERFUL MENTAL MODEL NOW...
I THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW THAT VIA THE TACTICAL NETWORK.
YES.


COME TO THINK OF IT...
...YOUR SUBMARINE DOESN'T HAVE A MENTAL MODEL, DOES IT, ZOLDAN?


I SEE.

...HMM.
TUNK
TUNK

...ARE NOT NECESSARY FOR WEAPONS.
MENTAL MODELS...

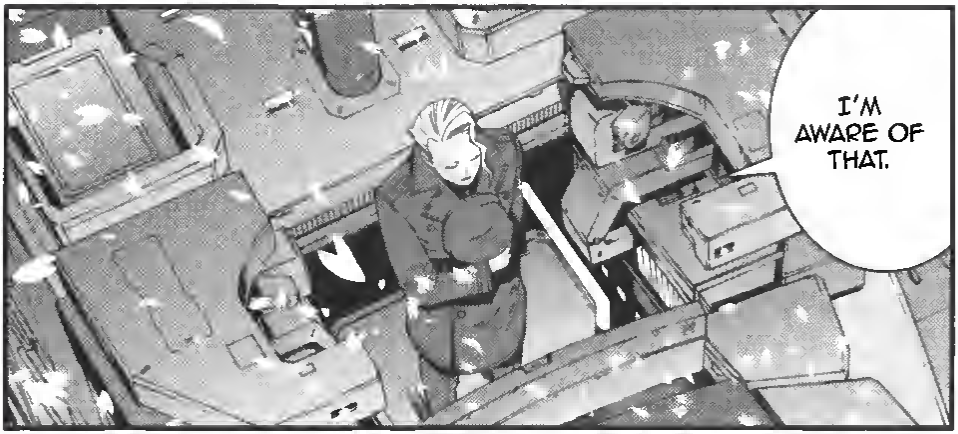
IT MAY BE EFFECTIVE FOR YOU WHEN YOU OPERATE ALONE.
I APOL-OGIZE.
BUT MY SUB HAS A CREW.
WE CAN MAKE THE DECISIONS THAT A MENTAL MODEL WOULD MAKE.
BUT THE 401 HAS A MENTAL MODEL...
I SEE. PERHAPS SO.
...AND EVEN A NAME, TOO.

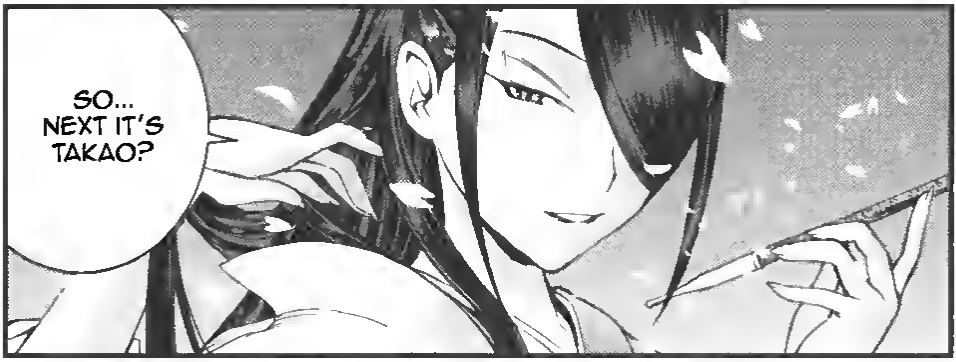
CONSTRUCTING A MENTAL MODEL USES A FAIRLY LARGE PORTION OF YOUR CORE'S PROCESSING POWER.
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND IT.
...OF MAINTAINING ONE AT THAT COST.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE POINT...
A FAIR QUESTION.

A SHIP LIKE YOURSELF...
...WITH A G-CODE CORE THAT GRANTS YOU THE RIGHT TO BE A HIGH FLAGSHIP...
...CAN STAND THE LOSS OF A SMALL AMOUNT OF PROCESSING POWER, I'M SURE.
EVEN MY DELTA CORE HAS LIMITS.
FOR EXAMPLE...

IF I WERE EVER TO FIGHT MUSASHI...
...IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO WIN, YES?
SHWOOOM

SURELY YOU JEST.
.....
WE ARE WEAPONS, ORIGINALLY.
WE LACK VALUES, EXPRESSIONS, OR EXAMPLES OUTSIDE OF COMBAT.
IF I'VE CAUSED YOU CONFUSION, I APOLOGIZE.

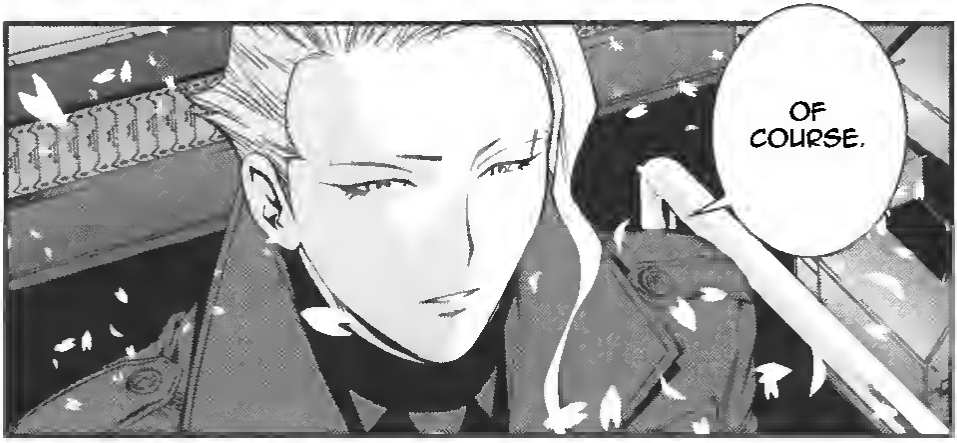

I'M AWARE OF THAT.


SO... NEXT IT'S TAKAO?

...IS TO ELIMINATE ALL THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE FOG.
OUR MISSION...

I'LL WAIT FOR HER TO LEAVE.
YES, SHE'S PROBABLY AT IWO JIMA.

IS THAT ALL?


OF COURSE.

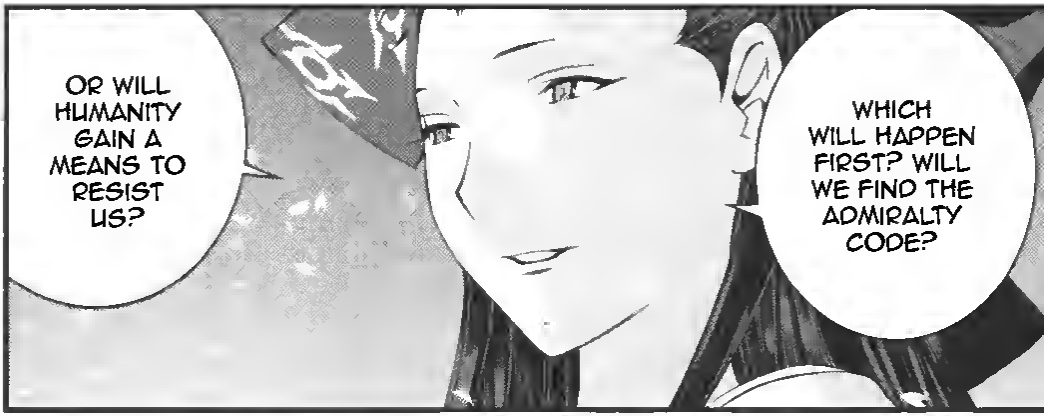
THANK YOU.

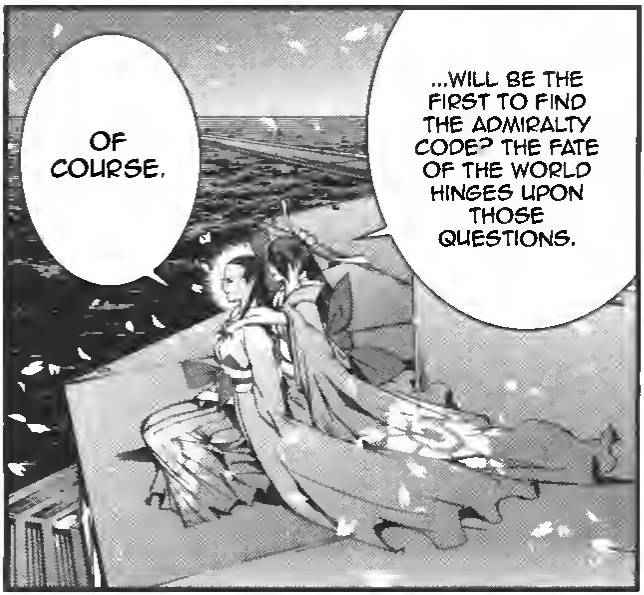
...FOR YOUR SAFE VOYAGE.
I'LL BE PRAYING...

BEEP
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
BEEP
THE NAGATO IS PICKING UP SPEED.
DID SHE JUST WANT TO CHAT?
BEEP
KNOW WHAT?
THEY PROBABLY WANT TO KNOW, TOO.
.....

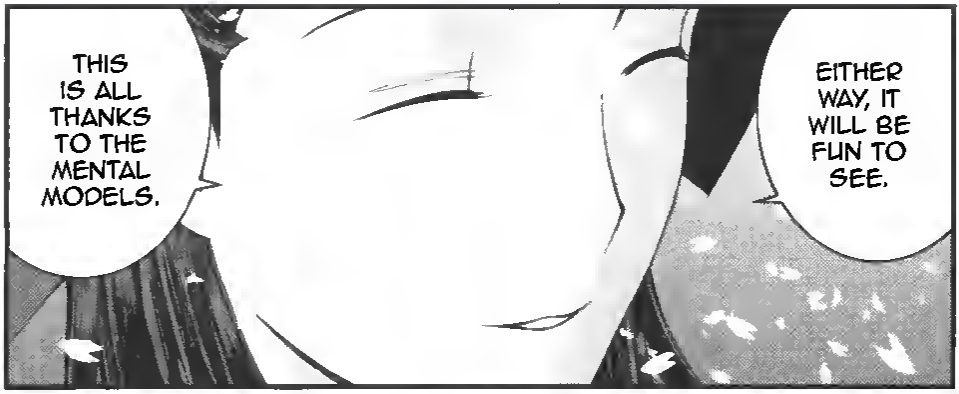
WHERE...
...THE ADMIRALTY CODE IS.
SHOUZOU CHIHAYA...
...STILL DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE ADMIRALTY CODE.
WELL...
TUNK
TUNK
HOW DID IT GO?

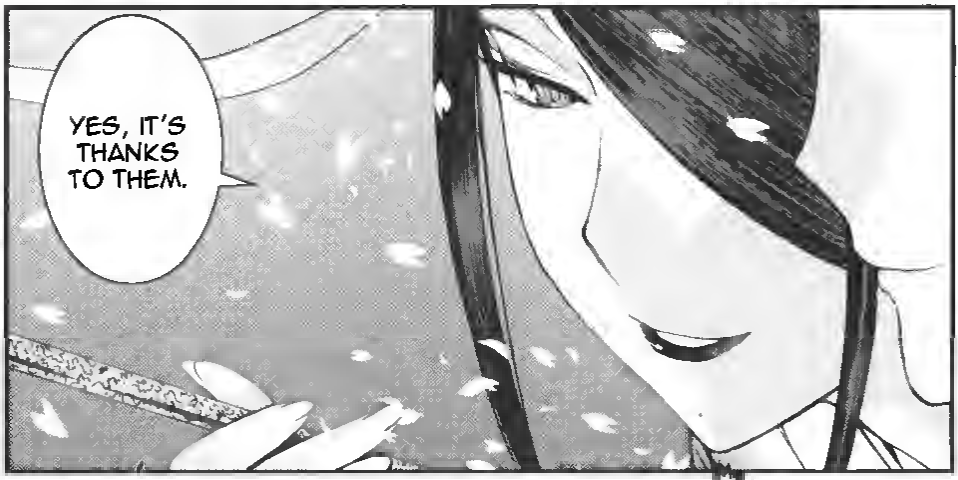
FFFT
...WHICH VANISHED IN EUROPE.
OUR HIGH ORDERS...


OR WILL HUMANITY GAIN A MEANS TO RESIST US?
WHICH WILL HAPPEN FIRST? WILL WE FIND THE ADMIRALTY CODE?


OF COURSE.
...WILL BE THE FIRST TO FIND THE ADMIRALTY CODE? THE FATE OF THE WORLD HINGES UPON THOSE QUESTIONS.

AND WHICH OF THE FOG...
SHFF


THIS IS ALL THANKS TO THE MENTAL MODELS.
EITHER WAY, IT WILL BE FUN TO SEE.


YES, IT'S THANKS TO THEM.

WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
ALL UNITS, WE'LL BE AT THE TARGET POINT IN LESS THAN 30 MINUTES.

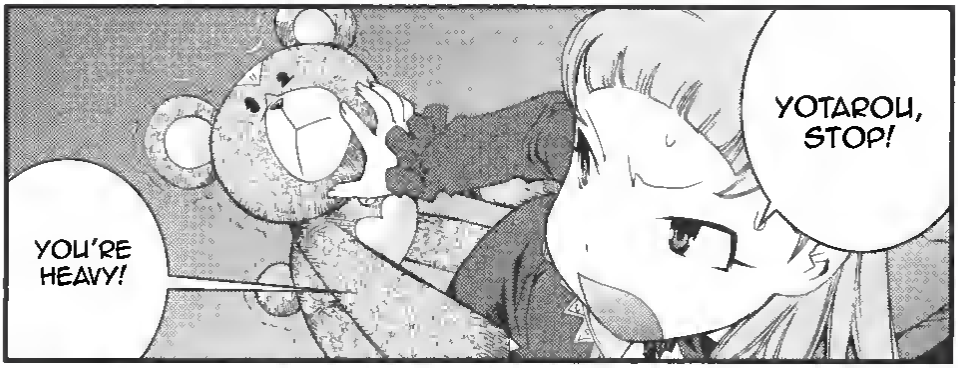
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
ALL SQUADS, CONFIRM YOUR MISSION AND CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT.
RUSTLE
SEARCH BEHIND THE BUSHES!
SHUFFLE
THIS WAY!

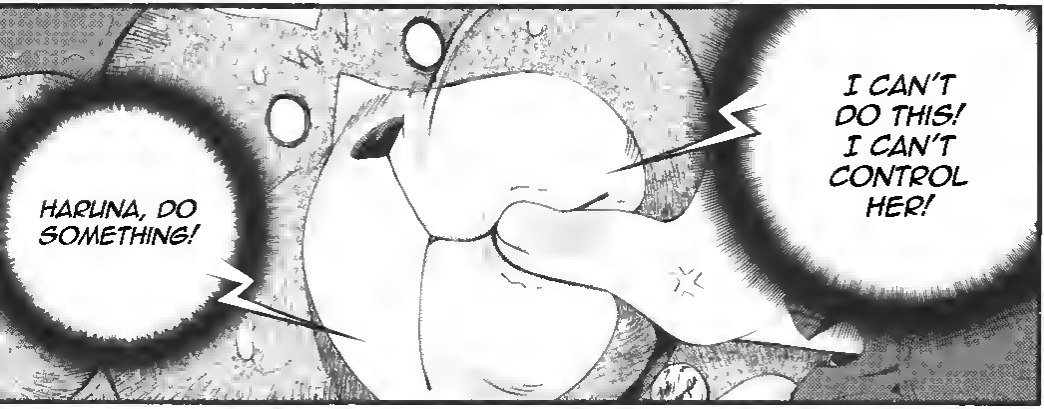
HEY, YOTAROU. LOOK OVER—
.....
PLATOON ONE, GO.
?
キ・ロ GLANCE
キ・ロ GLANCE
ACK!
GN
ボキッ
CRUNCH
グ
SQUISH
YOTAROU?
BISCUITS
OOH!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
YOTAROU!
おやつ
RUSTLE

I'M GLAD THE SOLDIERS DIDN'T FIND YOU.
IT'S DANGEROUS, SO STAY CLOSE.
DID YOU FIND THEM SOME-WHERE?
OH, THESE ARE COOKIES!
NOD
NOD
FIRST WE NEED TO FIND LAURENCE AND HARUHARU.
YANK
BUT...
THAT WILL TAKE US OUTSIDE THE MANSION.
HUH?
OVER THERE?

NO, THAT'S A REALLY BAD IDEA.
NO, LET'S HEAD TO THE FRONT OF THE MANSION.
.....
BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT HARUHARU TOO!
SQUEEZE
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME.
NO... SHE'S KICKING BUTT, ACTUALLY.
SOB
SOB
I'M SURE SHE'S TOO SCARED TO MOVE.

NO, SHE WANTS YOU TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!
SHE'S WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO SAVE HER.
YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON WHO SHOULDN'T GO!
I HAVE TO GO!
FWOOOM
KA-THUD
I CAN DO THIS!


YOTAROU, STOP!
YOU'RE HEAVY!


I CAN'T DO THIS! I CAN'T CONTROL HER!
HARUNA, DO SOMETHING!

VROOOM

HARUNA!
BOOM

BEEP
BEEP

BEEP
VROOOM
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
!
.....
THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SENT THEM OVER AS PART OF THEIR REGULAR REPORT ON THE FOG'S MOVEMENTS.
FROM THREE HOURS AGO.
HOW OLD ARE THESE FILES?

THE FOG'S PICKET SHIPS IN THE PACIFIC...
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
THEY'RE ON THE MOVE.
東京
長崎
HAS THE REST OF THE GOVERNMENT DONE ANYTHING IN RESPONSE?
NO, WAIT.
SHALL I CONTACT THEM?

...IT WILL BE AT DAWN.
AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, IF THEY'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING...
AND KEEP AN EYE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS.
KEEP AN EYE ON THE PICKET SHIPS.
WATCH ASSISTANT SECRETARY KAMIKAGE AND SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING GOING ON AROUND HIM.
NO...
.....
I'LL START IMMEDIATELY.

IS THIS THE CHIEF OF STAFF?
I MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE THE ARMY A CHANCE TO REDEEM THEMSELVES.
BEEP
BEEP
ON
THE TARGET WILL LIKELY BE IWO JIMA.
GET READY.

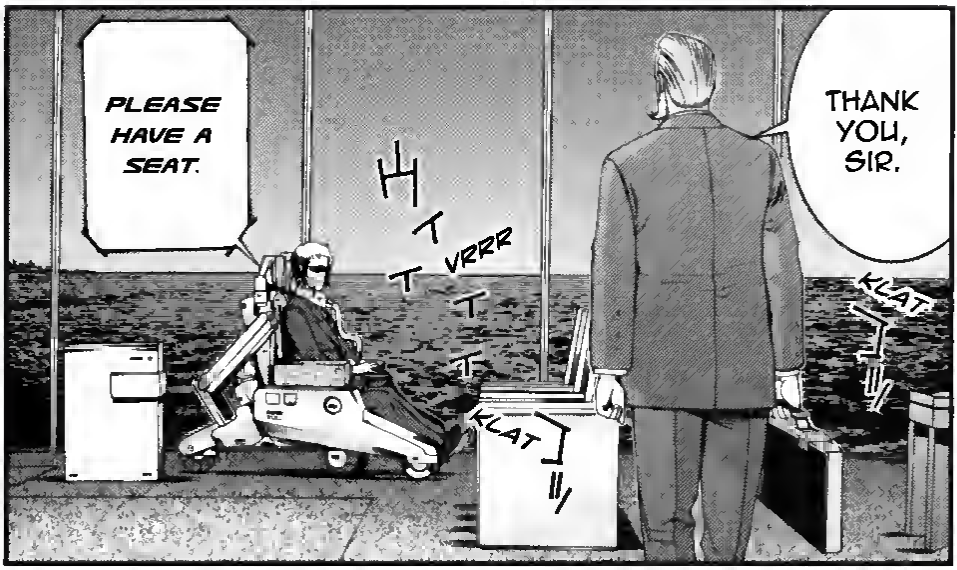
Phone: "Private Call Mode ON"

SHWOOOM

Miku-tan!
Hi-Sonic!

Depth:026／END

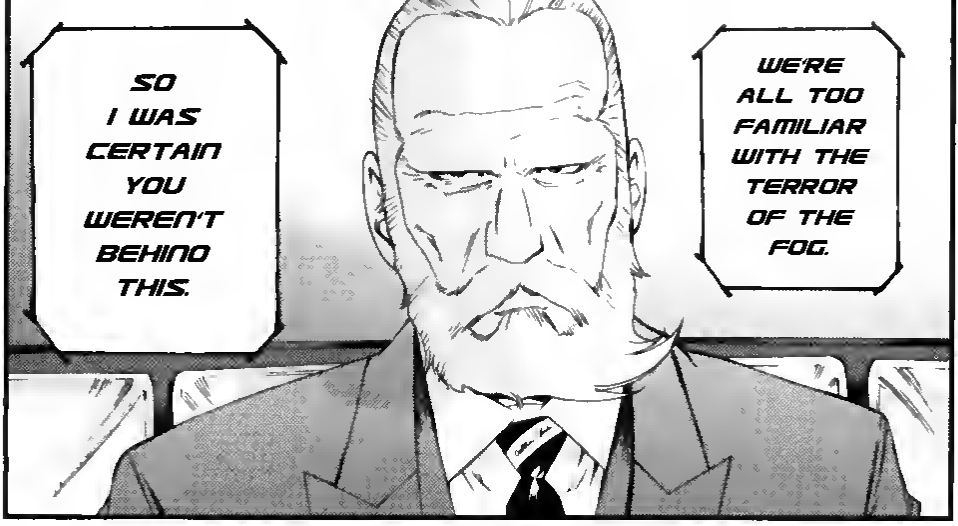
Depth:027
THIS WAY.
KLAT
KLAT
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
KLAT
PRIME MINISTER KAEDE, I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU AT THIS HOUR.
KLAT
YOU NEEDN'T TROUBLE YOURSELF.
THIS IS MY JOB, AFTER ALL.
CHIEF SECRETARY, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
VRRR


PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.
VRRR
KLAT
KLAT
THANK YOU, SIR.

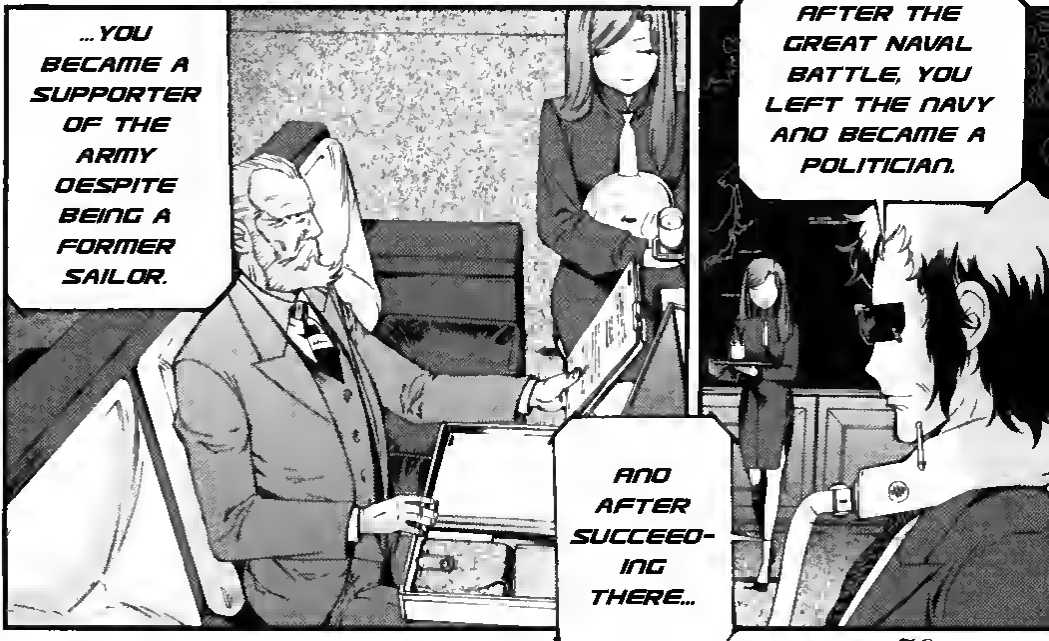
I'M ALREADY AWARE OF THE SITUATION. THE ARMY, YES?
VRRR
I'M SORRY.
YOU SEE, TWO HOURS AGO...
PARDON THE INTRUSION.

I FAILED TO KEEP THEM IN HAND.
CLACK
FORGIVE ME.

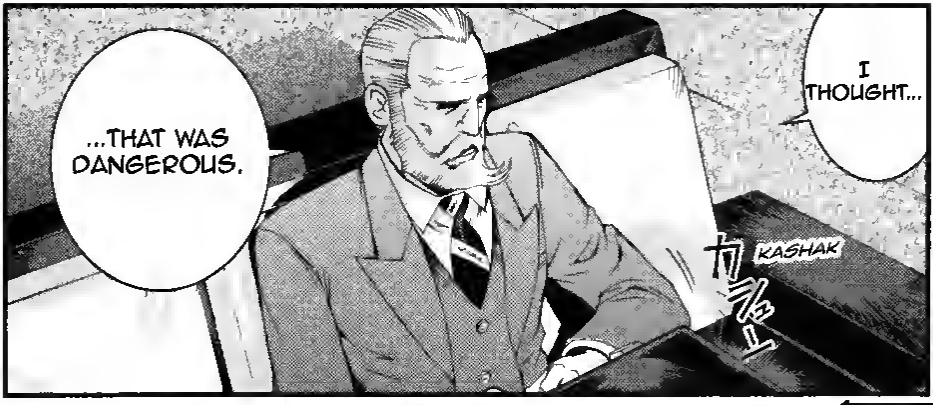
I EXPERIENCED THE GREAT NAVAL BATTLE 17 YEARS AGO...
...ON THE SHIP YOU CAPTAINED.
...SERVING AS A SAILOR...
...AND I WOUND UP LIKE THIS.
YOU LOST YOUR SHIP AND MUCH OF YOUR CREW...


SO I WAS CERTAIN YOU WEREN'T BEHIND THIS.
WE'RE ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH THE TERROR OF THE FOG.

IT'S STILL MY MISTAKE.
RUSTLE
...NEVER-THELESS.


...YOU BECAME A SUPPORTER OF THE ARMY DESPITE BEING A FORMER SAILOR.
AFTER THE GREAT NAVAL BATTLE, YOU LEFT THE NAVY AND BECAME A POLITICIAN.
AND AFTER SUCCEED-ING THERE...

THE NAVY...
.....
I'M SURE YOU HAD A REASON, THOUGH?
...AFTER FIGHTING THE FOG, LEARNED FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE HOW POWERFUL THEY TRULY ARE.
BUT THE ARMY COULD DO NOTHING BUT SIT ON LAND, SO IT WAS ALL SECOND-HAND TO THEM.
JUST FIVE YEARS AFTER THE GREAT NAVAL BATTLE THEY WERE ALREADY CALLING FOR A REMATCH.


I THOUGHT...
KASHAK
...THAT WAS DANGEROUS.

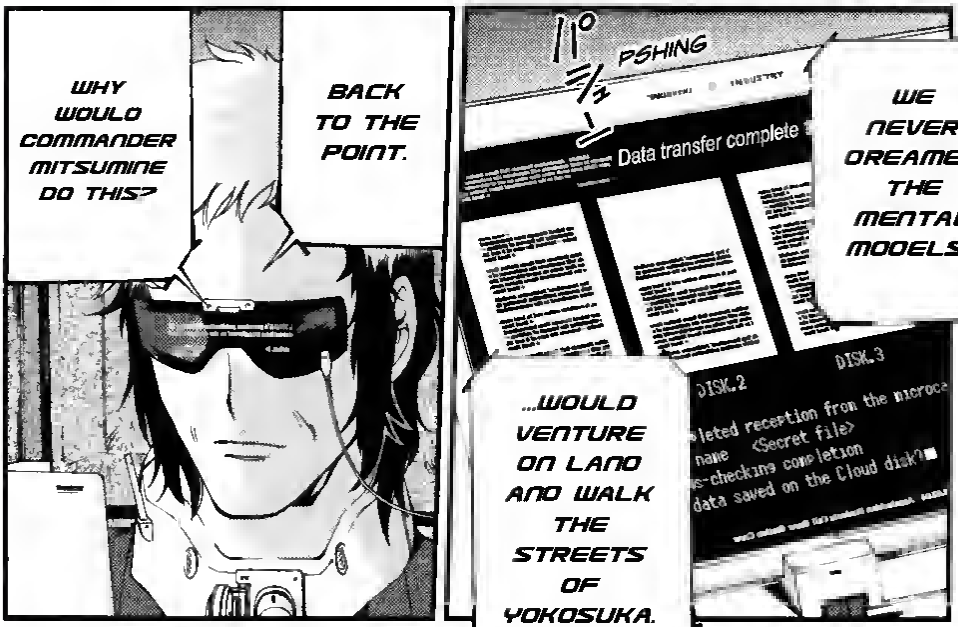
I REMEMBER THAT WELL.
THERE WAS A PLAN TO LURE THE FOG TO THE COAST WITH OUR REMAINING SHIPS...
...AND ATTACK THEM WITH A HIGH-POWERED LASER WEAPON.

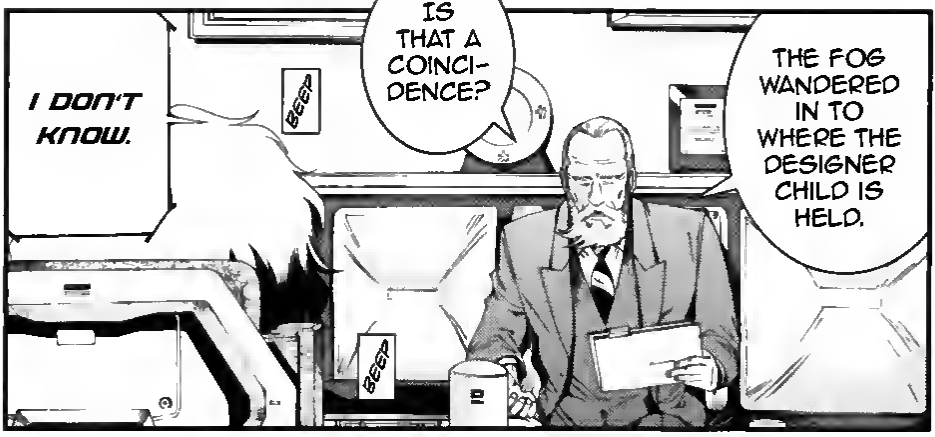
TCHK
A STRIKE ON THEM FROM THE LAND...
...MAY LEAD THEM TO START ATTACKING OUR TERRITORY.
THE FOG'S THOUGHT PROCESSES REMAIN A MYSTERY TO US.
TAP

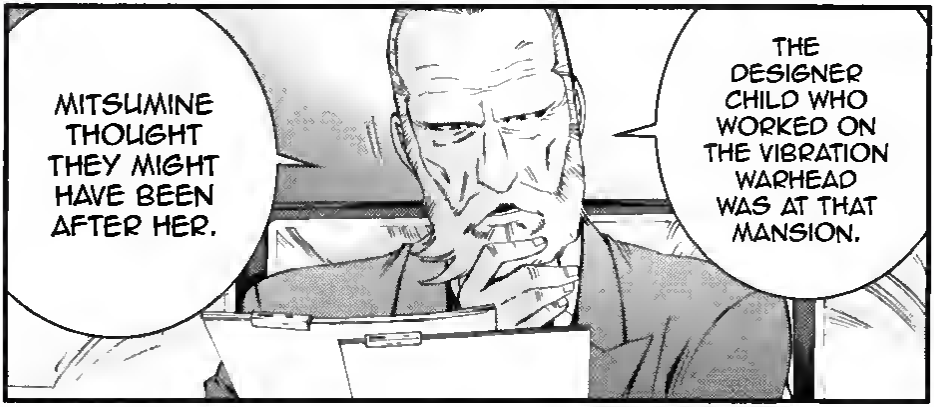
...TO KEEP THEM IN LINE.
KASHAK
SO I'VE BEEN USING THE CARROT AND THE STICK...
...BECAUSE THEY HADN'T CONTRIBUTED ANYTHING DURING THE GREAT WAR.
AT THE TIME, THE ARMY WAS IN A POLITICALLY WEAK POSITION...
SOME-DAY...
...WE'LL BEGIN OUR GREAT COUNTER-ATTACK
THEY WERE OVERJOYED AT YOUR OFFER.
EVERYTHING ELSE WAS PUT ON HOLD TO REBUILD THE NAVY.

IF WE WASTE OURSELVES IN MEANINGLESS BATTLES HERE, IT WILL HURT US IN THE FUTURE.
CLICK
CLICK
ONCE THE NAVAL BLOCKADE IS BROKEN, WE'LL NEED THE ARMY.

...THAT BEGAN WITH THE SINKING OF A BATTLE-SHIP.
VRRR
BEEP
BEEP
THIS WAS AN IRREGULAR CASE...


WHY WOULD COMMANDER MITSUMINE DO THIS?
BACK TO THE POINT.
PSHING
Data transfer complete
DISK.2
DISK.3
WE NEVER DREAMED THE MENTAL MODELS...
...WOULD VENTURE ON LAND AND WALK THE STREETS OF YOKOSUKA.

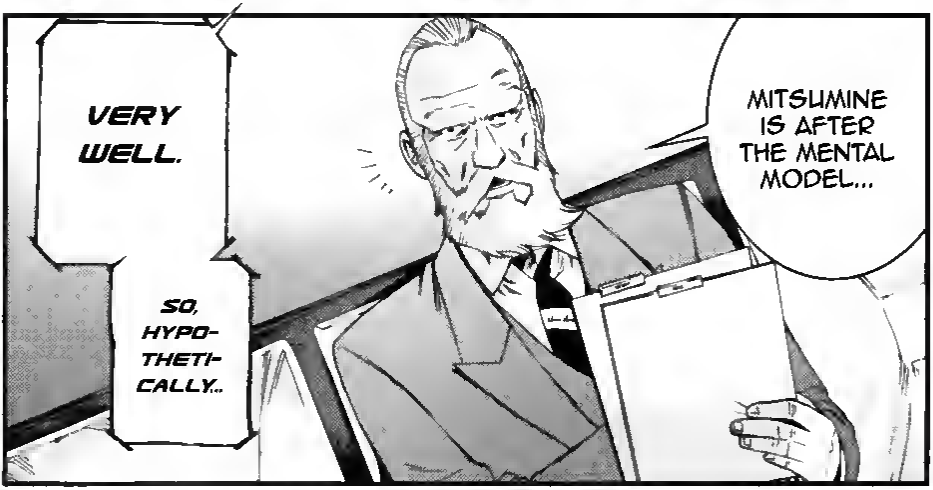

I DON'T KNOW.
BEEP
IS THAT A COINCI-DENCE?
THE FOG WANDERED IN TO WHERE THE DESIGNER CHILD IS HELD.
BEEP

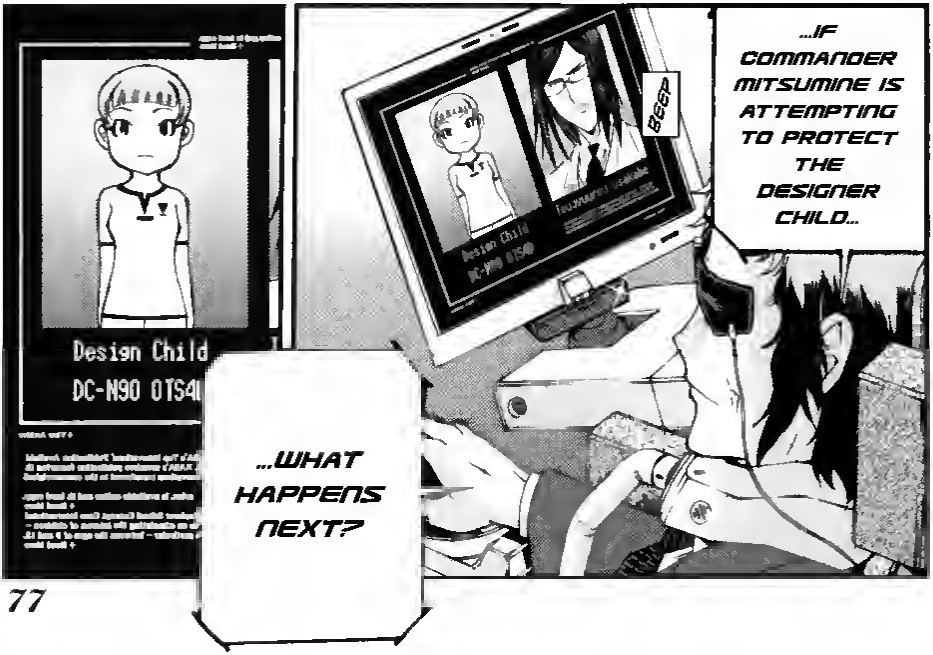

MITSUMINE THOUGHT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN AFTER HER.
THE DESIGNER CHILD WHO WORKED ON THE VIBRATION WARHEAD WAS AT THAT MANSION.

BEEP
I'M SORRY, BUT I DO NOT AGREE.
BEEP

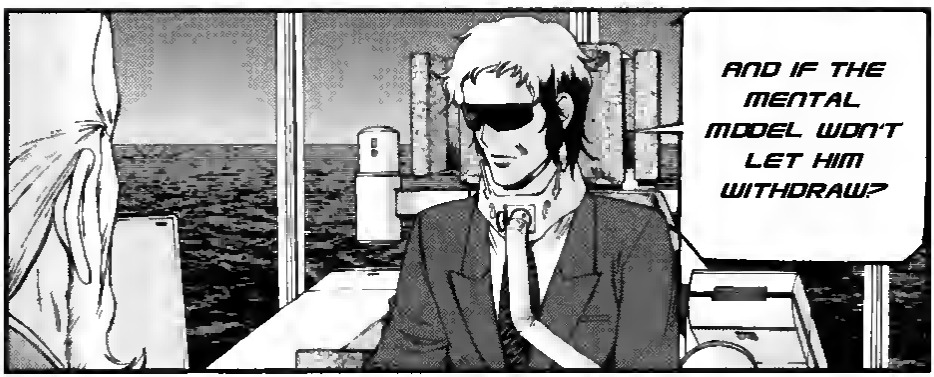
BEEP
BEEP
SO IF HE INSISTS ON THAT, I'VE NO MEANS OF COUNTERING HIM.
BUT... I'VE GOT NO PROOF THAT THAT ISN'T THE CASE.
BEEP
IT'S DIFFICULT TO GO AGAINST A FORMER SECOND-IN-COMMAND.
HEH.

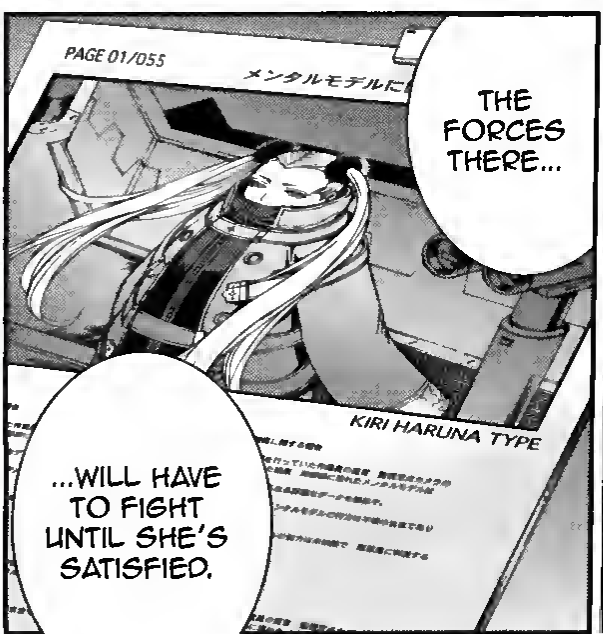
I'M SURE.


VERY WELL.
SO, HYPO-THETI-CALLY...
MITSUMINE IS AFTER THE MENTAL MODEL...


Design Child
DC-N90 0TS4
BEEP
...IF COMMANDER MITSUMINE IS ATTEMPTING TO PROTECT THE DESIGNER CHILD...
...WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

...HE'LL WITHDRAW.
AFTER RECOVERING THE DESIGNER CHILD AND DOCTOR OSAKABE...


AND IF THE MENTAL MODEL WON'T LET HIM WITHDRAW?

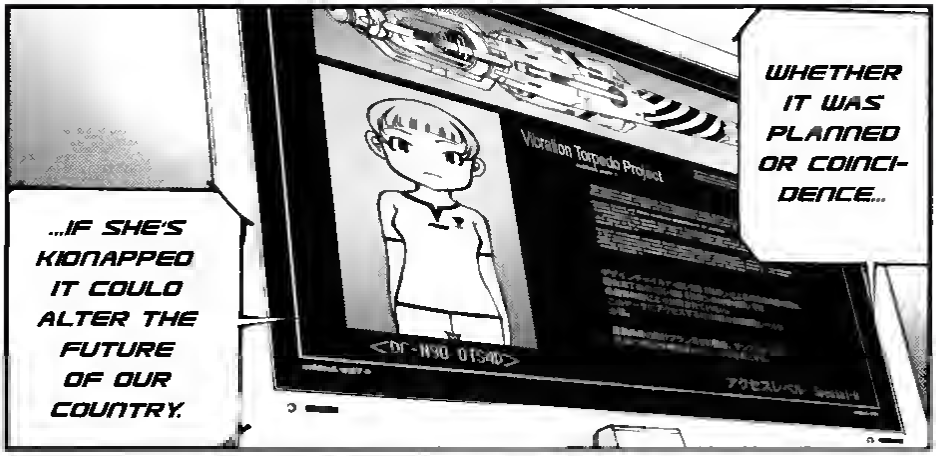

PAGE 01/055
メンタルモデルに
KIRI HARUNA TYPE
THE FORCES THERE...
...WILL HAVE TO FIGHT UNTIL SHE'S SATISFIED.

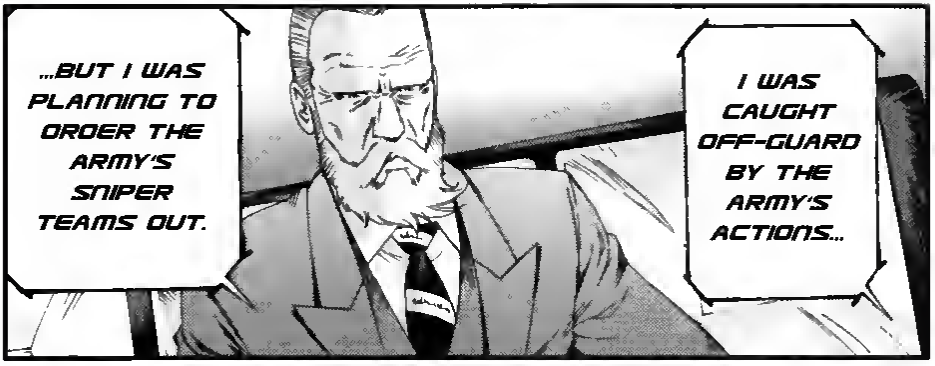
IF THAT HAP-PENS...

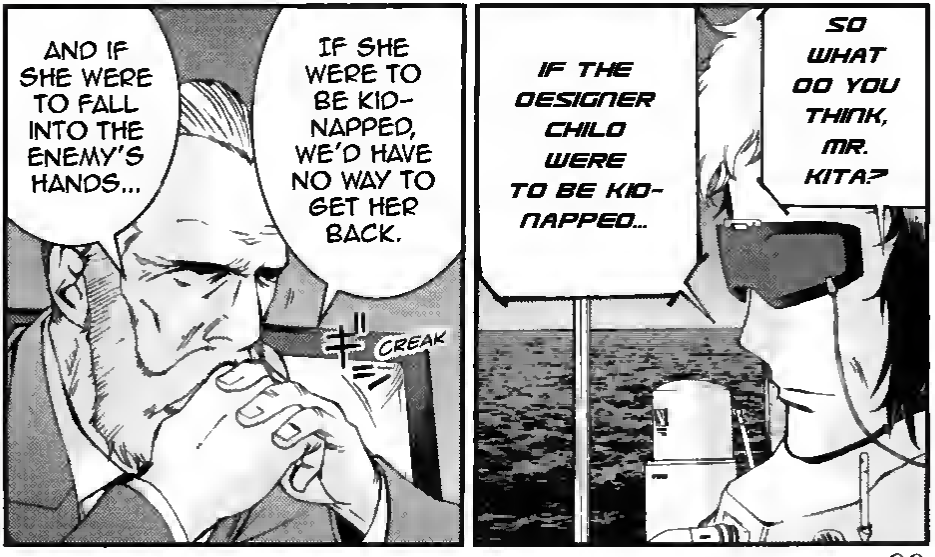
...OR PERHAPS EVEN BOTH OF THEM?
...ATTEMPTS TO KIDNAP EITHER THE DESIGNER CHILD OR DOCTOR OSAKABE...
AND IF THE MENTAL MODEL...

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
CREAK

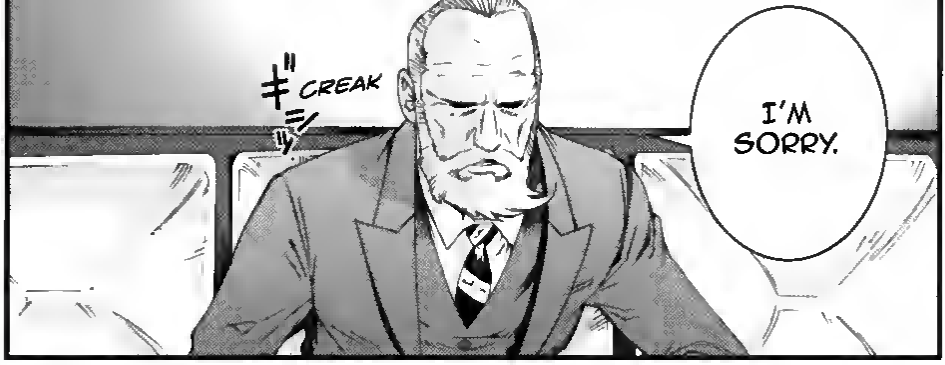
...I'VE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY...
NO MATTER WHAT MAY HAVE DRIVEN COMMANDER MITSUMINE TO THIS...
...THAT THE MENTAL MODEL WOULD KIDNAP THE DESIGNER CHILD SINCE THIS INCIDENT BEGAN.

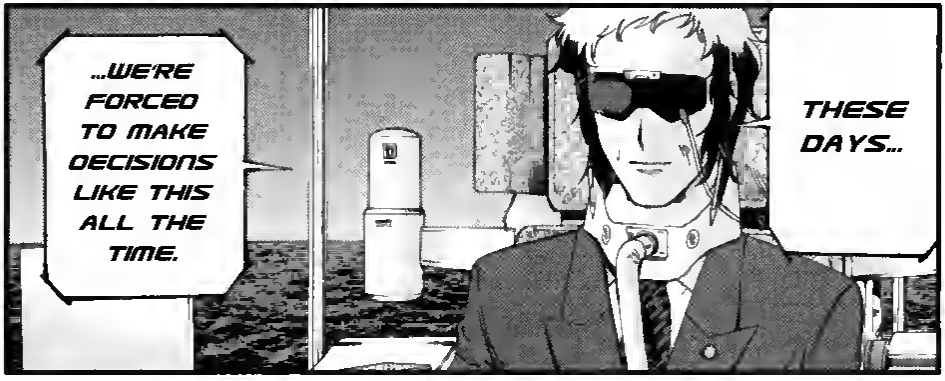

WHETHER IT WAS PLANNED OR COINCI-DENCE...
...IF SHE'S KIDNAPPED IT COULD ALTER THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.

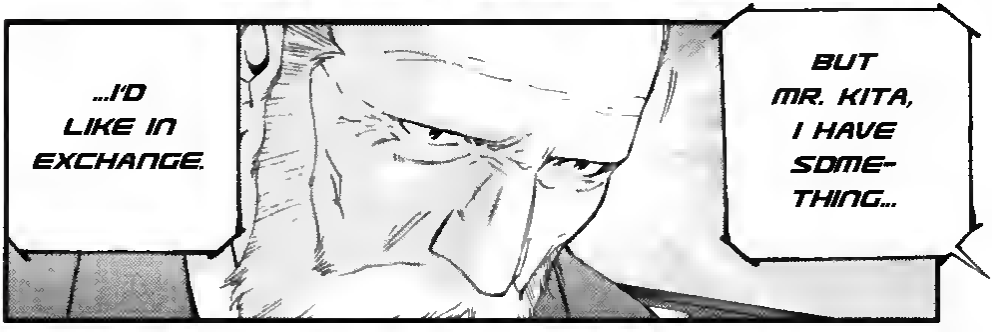

I WAS CAUGHT OFF-GUARD BY THE ARMY'S ACTIONS...
...BUT I WAS PLANNING TO ORDER THE ARMY'S SNIPER TEAMS OUT.

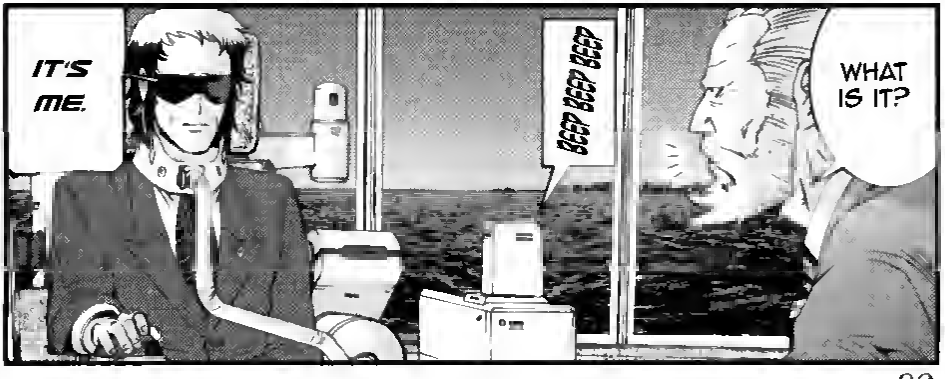

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. KITA?
IF THE DESIGNER CHILD WERE TO BE KID-NAPPED...
IF SHE WERE TO BE KID-NAPPED, WE'D HAVE NO WAY TO GET HER BACK.
AND IF SHE WERE TO FALL INTO THE ENEMY'S HANDS...
CREAK

WE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.
.....
...ACTED TO PROTECT THE DESIGNER CHILD AND DOCTOR OSAKABE FROM THE MENTAL MODEL.
VERY WELL.
THAT'S WHAT I'LL TELL THE MEDIA.
THEN THE ARMY...


CREAK
I'M SORRY.

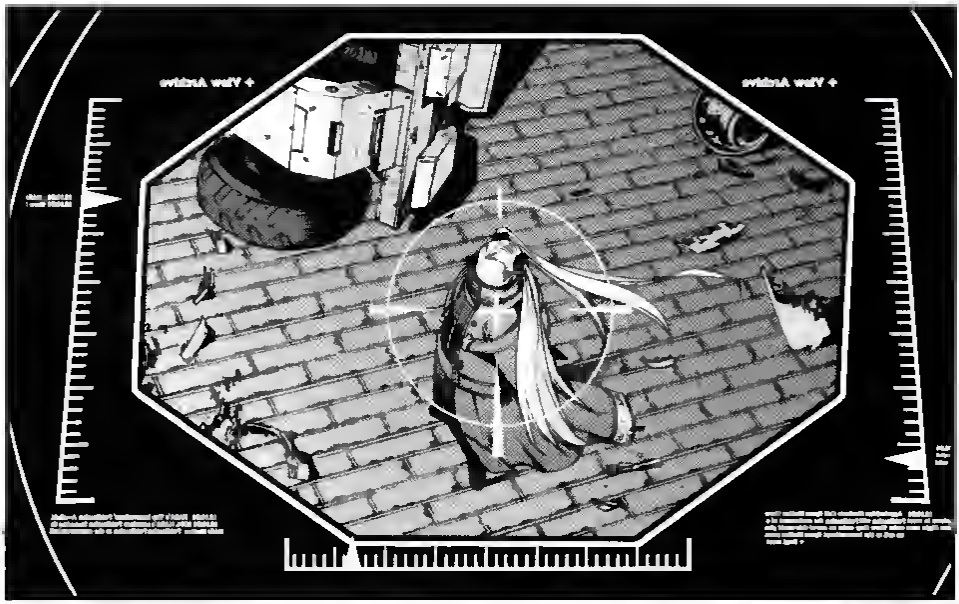

...WE'RE FORCED TO MAKE DECISIONS LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME.
THESE DAYS...

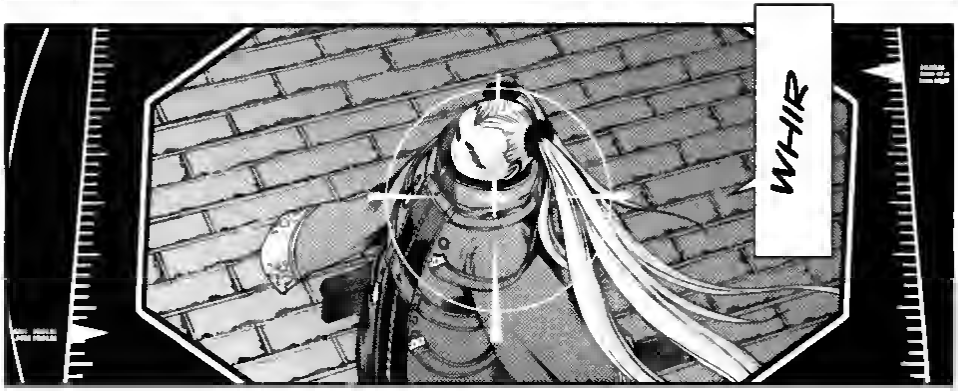

...I'D LIKE IN EXCHANGE.
BUT MR. KITA, I HAVE SOME-THING...

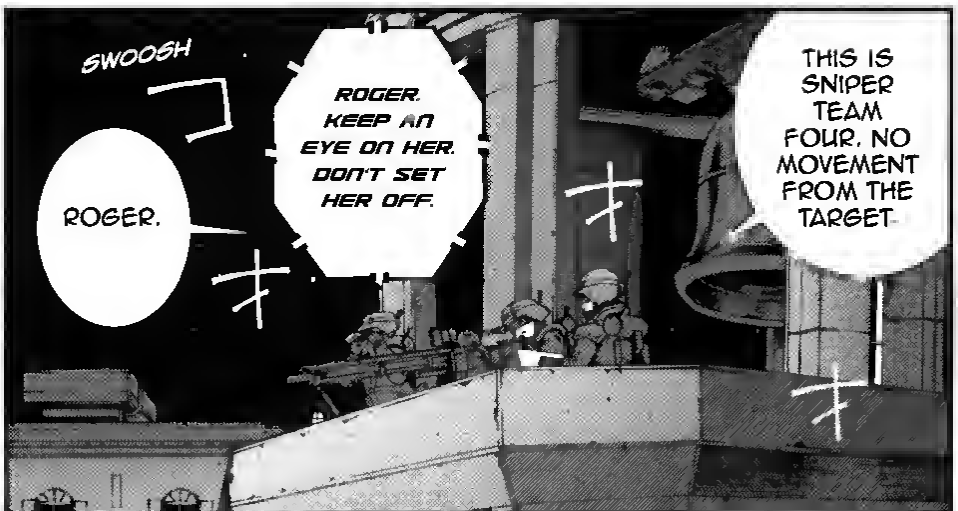

IT'S ME.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
WHAT IS IT?

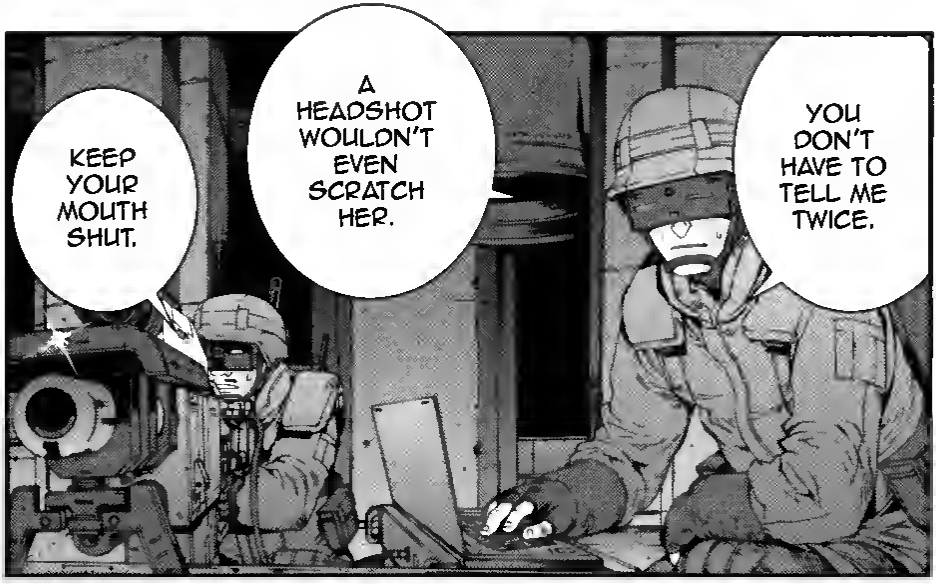
ASSISTANT SECRETARY KAMIKAGE IS HERE.
SEND HIM IN.
UNDER-STOOD.
I SEE.
CLINK
SO THAT'S YOUR REQUEST.
.....

...TO MAKE DECISIONS LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME.
TAK
WE'RE FORCED...
THAT'S RIGHT.
YES...
CREAK
IT WAS JUST LIKE THIS WHEN WE SENT SHOUZOU...
...OUT IN THE 401.

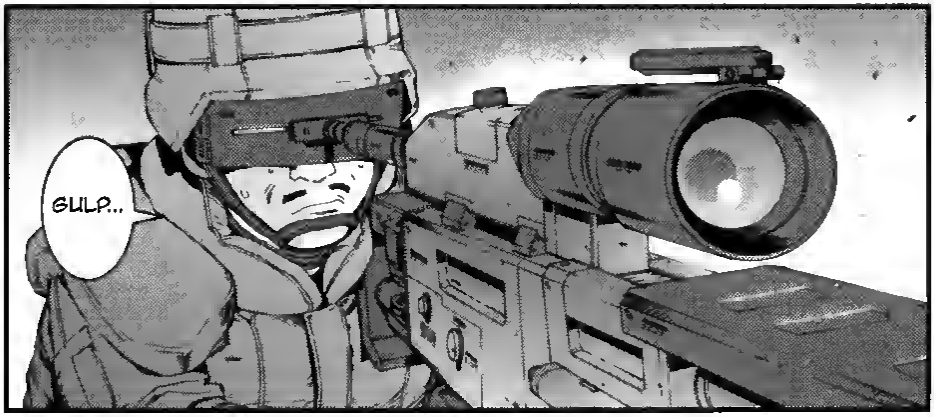


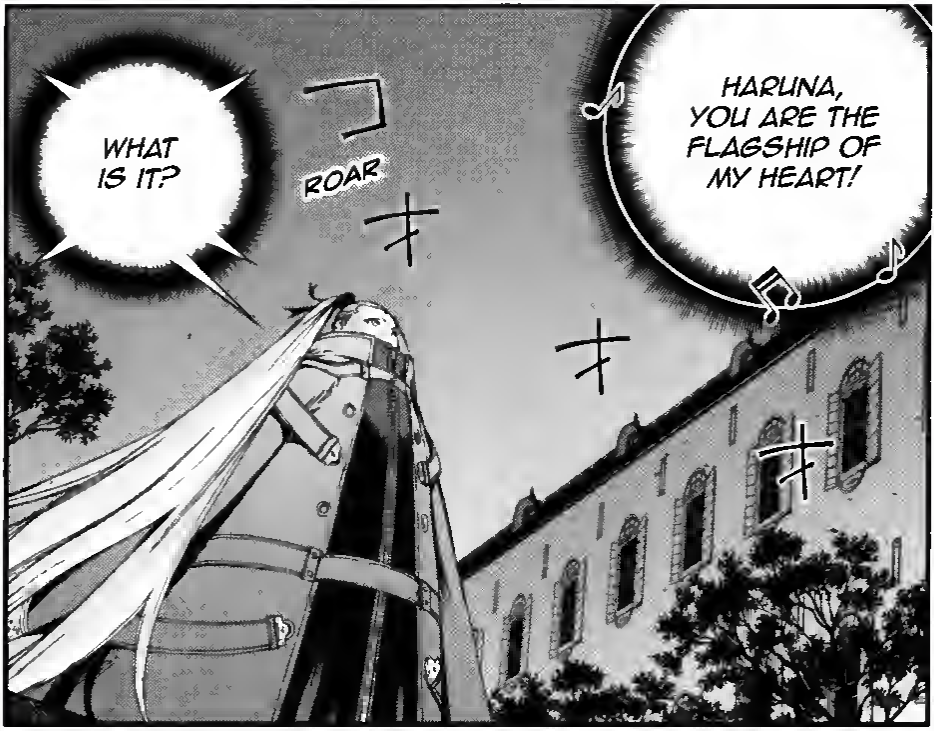

WHIR

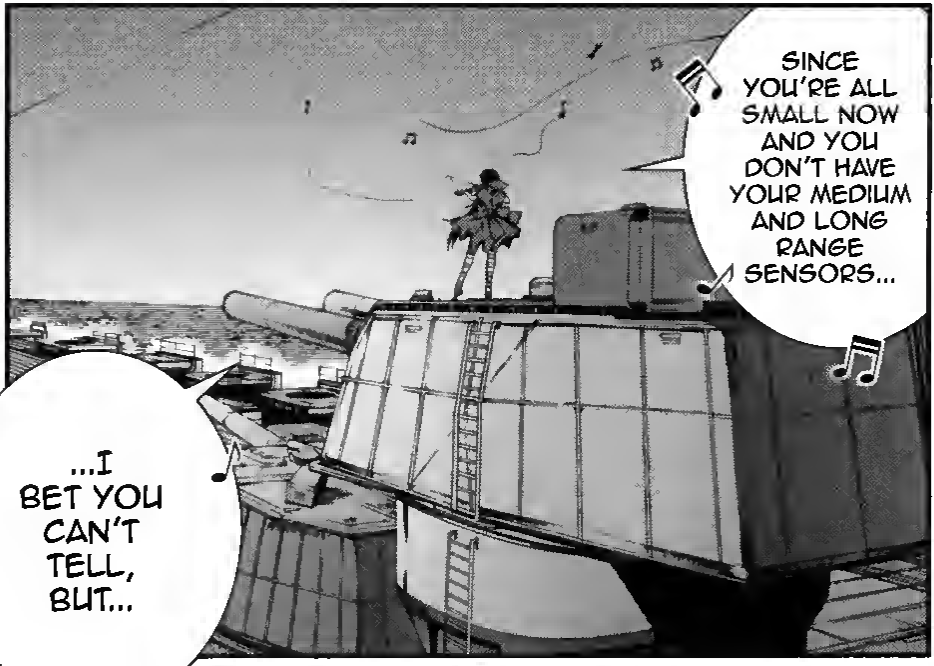

SWOOSH
ROGER.
ROGER. KEEP AN EYE ON HER. DON'T SET HER OFF.
THIS IS SNIPER TEAM FOUR. NO MOVEMENT FROM THE TARGET.


KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.
A HEADSHOT WOULDN'T EVEN SCRATCH HER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE.

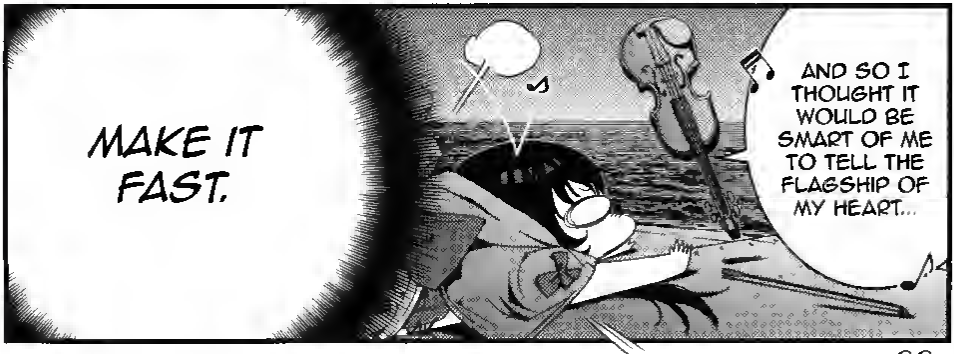
WHIR


GULP...


WHAT IS IT?
ROAR
HARUNA, YOU ARE THE FLAGSHIP OF MY HEART!


SINCE YOU'RE ALL SMALL NOW AND YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR MEDIUM AND LONG RANGE SENSORS...
...I BET YOU CAN'T TELL, BUT...

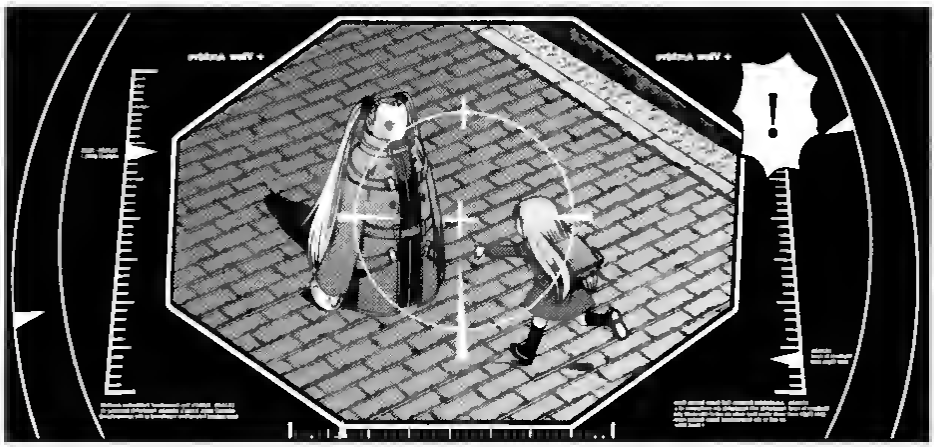
...MY SUPER HIGH-GRADE SENSORS!
THEY COULDN'T FOOL...

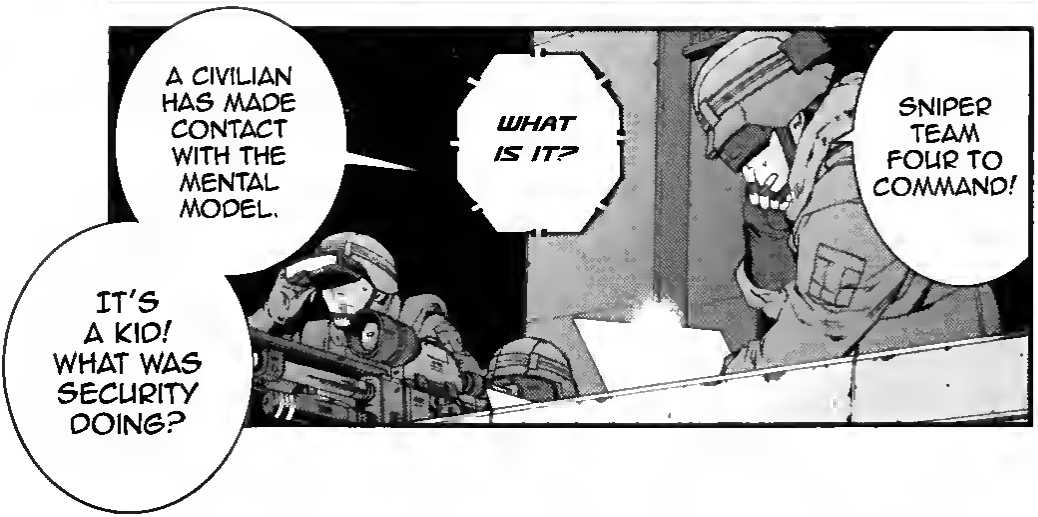

MAKE IT FAST.
AND SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SMART OF ME TO TELL THE FLAGSHIP OF MY HEART...

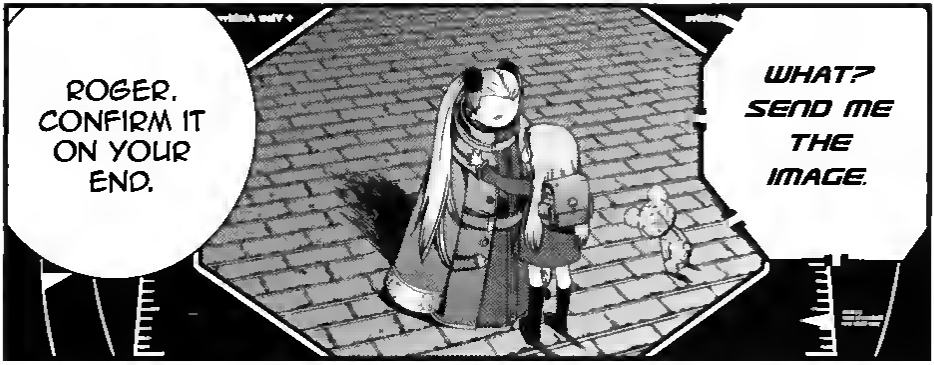
THREE HELI-COPTERS...
...ARE COMING IN FROM THE NORTH-EAST.
ROAR
NORTHERN SECTOR...
...SPECIAL FORCES...

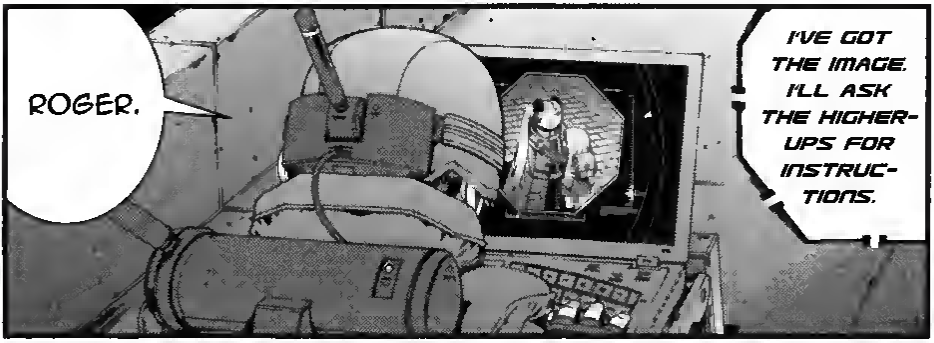
.....
HARUNA!
ROGER. SNIPERS ARE THERE. BE CAREFUL.
I CAN'T DO IT. GASP. I CAN'T HANDLE HER. SHE'S COMING THAT WAY. I CAN'T CONTROL HER!
OH, JEEZ! ROGER! I'M COMING OUT!
THUD
ばたっ

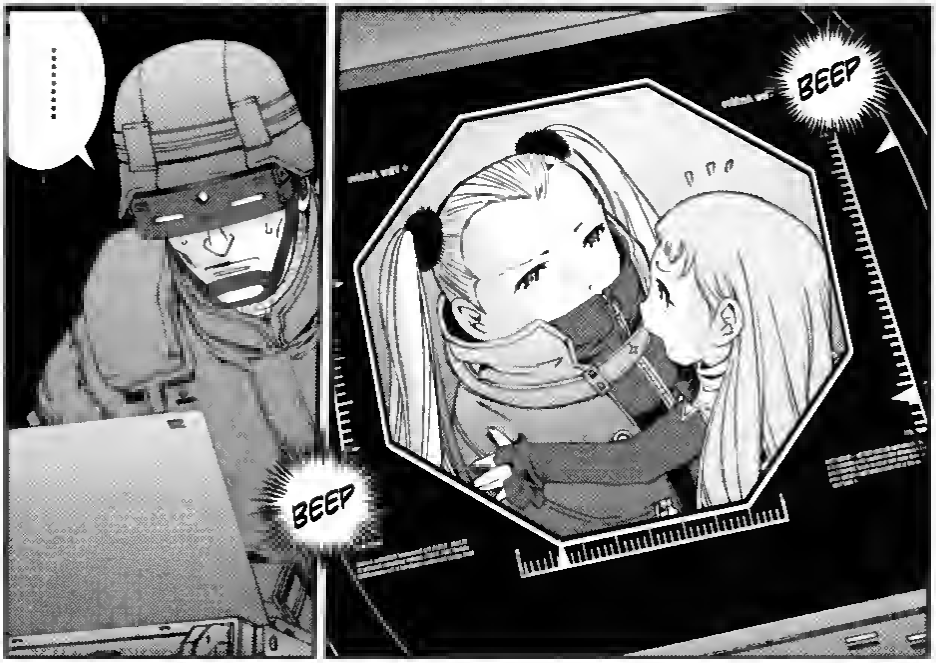
HARU-HARU!


!

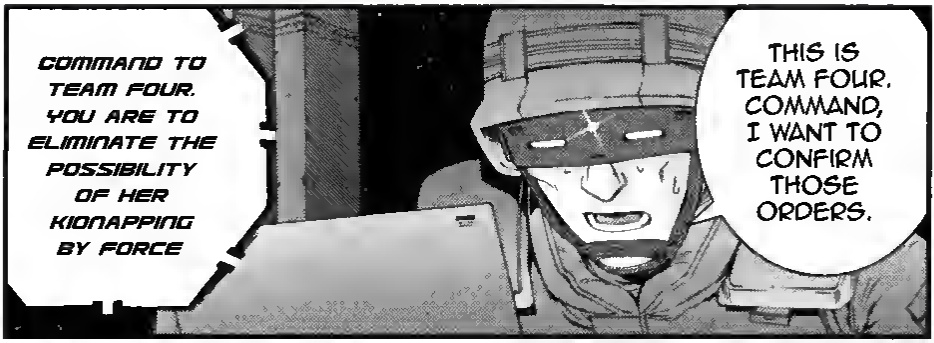

A CIVILIAN HAS MADE CONTACT WITH THE MENTAL MODEL.
WHAT IS IT?
SNIPER TEAM FOUR TO COMMAND!
IT'S A KID! WHAT WAS SECURITY DOING?

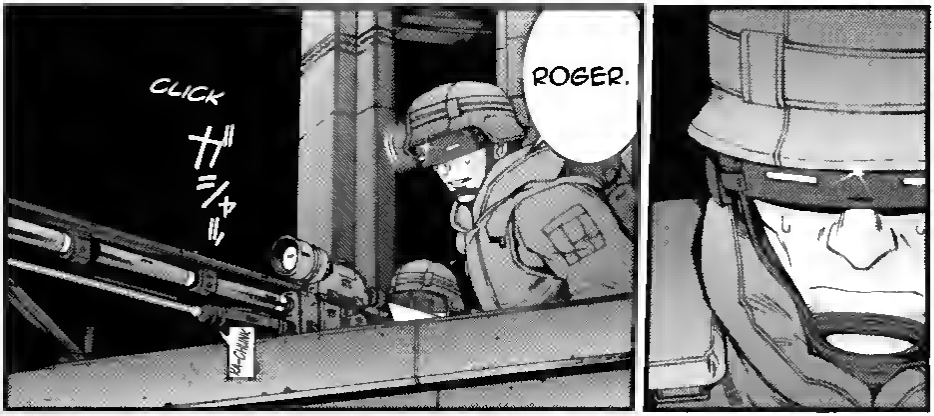

ROGER. CONFIRM IT ON YOUR END.
WHAT? SEND ME THE IMAGE.

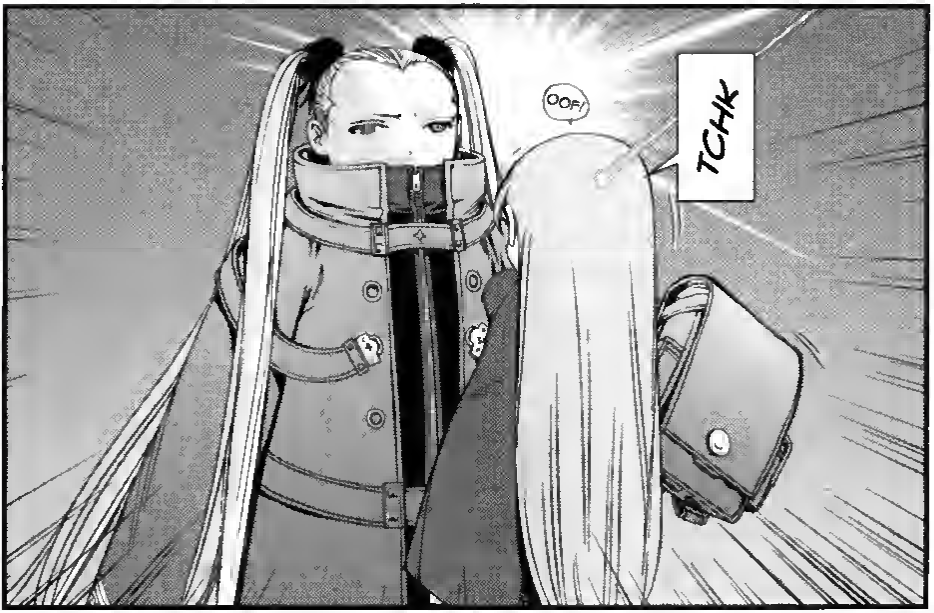

ROGER.
I'VE GOT THE IMAGE. I'LL ASK THE HIGHER-UPS FOR INSTRUC-TIONS.


.....
BEEP
BEEP

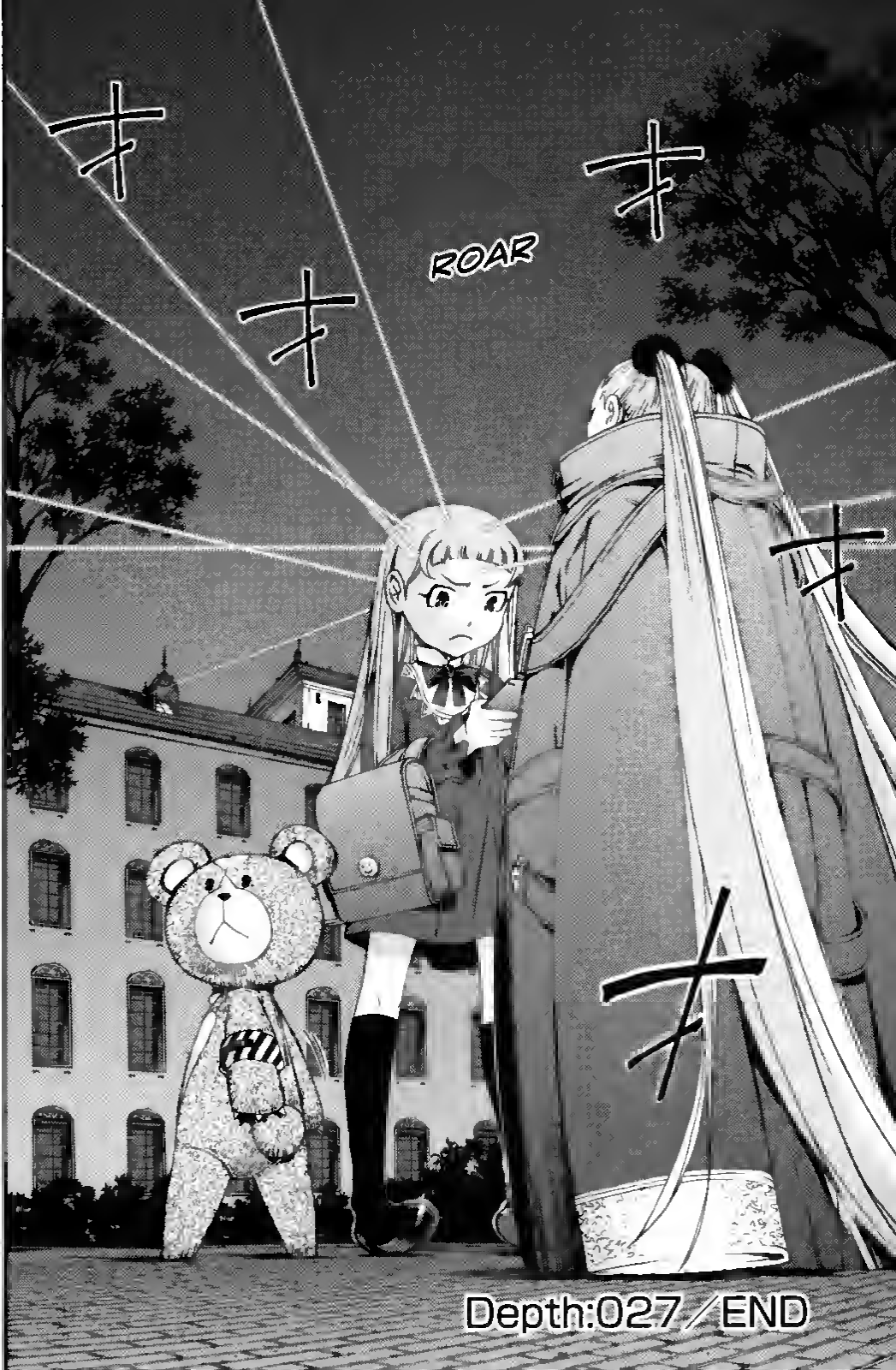
BEEP
I'VE GOT YOUR ORDERS. THE CIVILIAN IS A DESIGNER CHILD.
THERE'S A CHANCE THE FOG MAY KIDNAP HER. SNIPER TEAMS ARE TO ELIMINATE THAT POSSIBILITY BY FORCE.
ROAR
BEEP
BEEP
ビスケット


COMMAND TO TEAM FOUR. YOU ARE TO ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF HER KIDNAPPING BY FORCE
THIS IS TEAM FOUR. COMMAND, I WANT TO CONFIRM THOSE ORDERS.

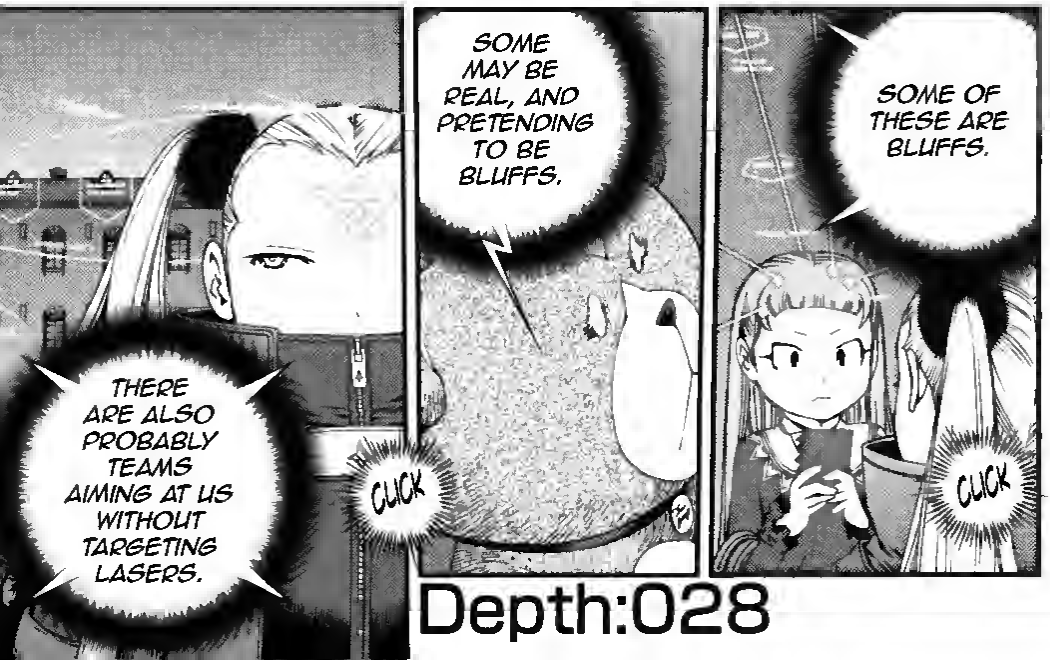

CLICK
ROGER.


OOF!
TCHK

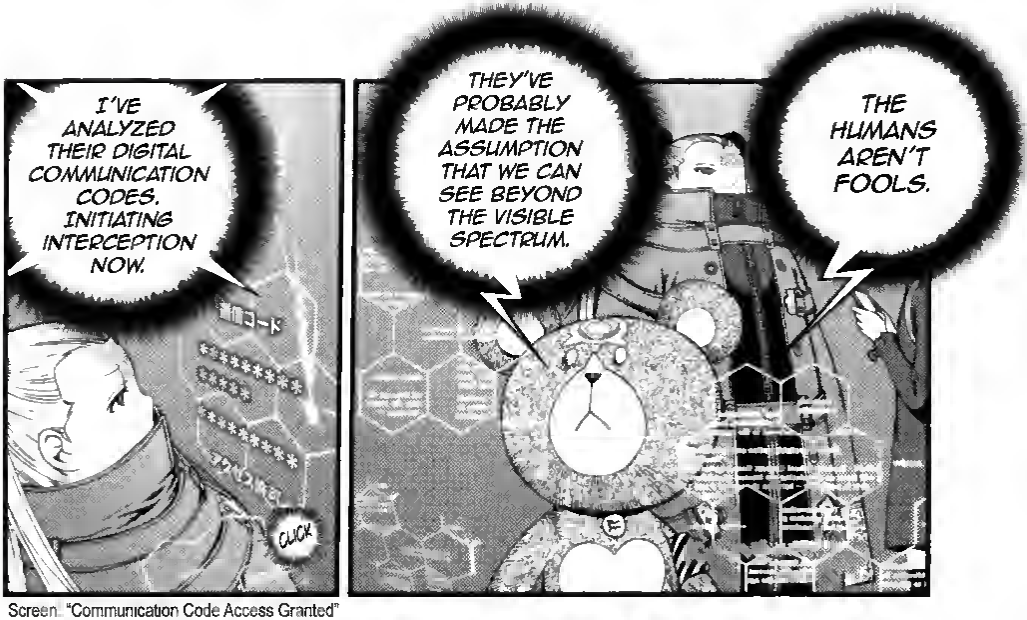
TCHK
I SEE THEM.
KIRI-SHIMA.


ROAR
Depth:027／END

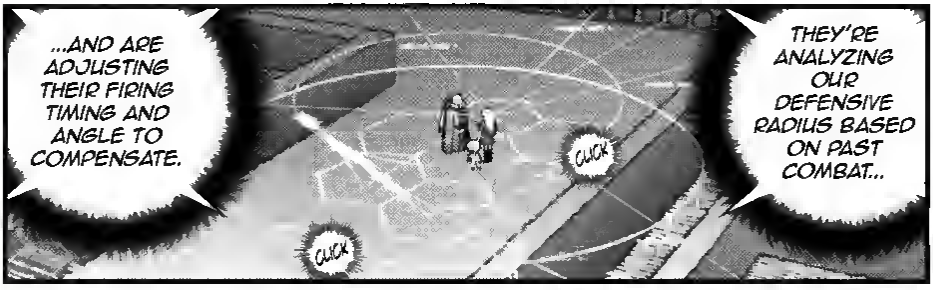
I'M GATHERING MILITARY TACTICAL MANUALS FROM HUMAN NETWORKS. ANALYZING.
MAKIE CAN'T SEE THE INFRARED TARGETING LASERS.
DAMN IT, IF I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN I WOULD'VE GOTTEN MORE INFO ON THE ARMY!
CLICK
CLICK

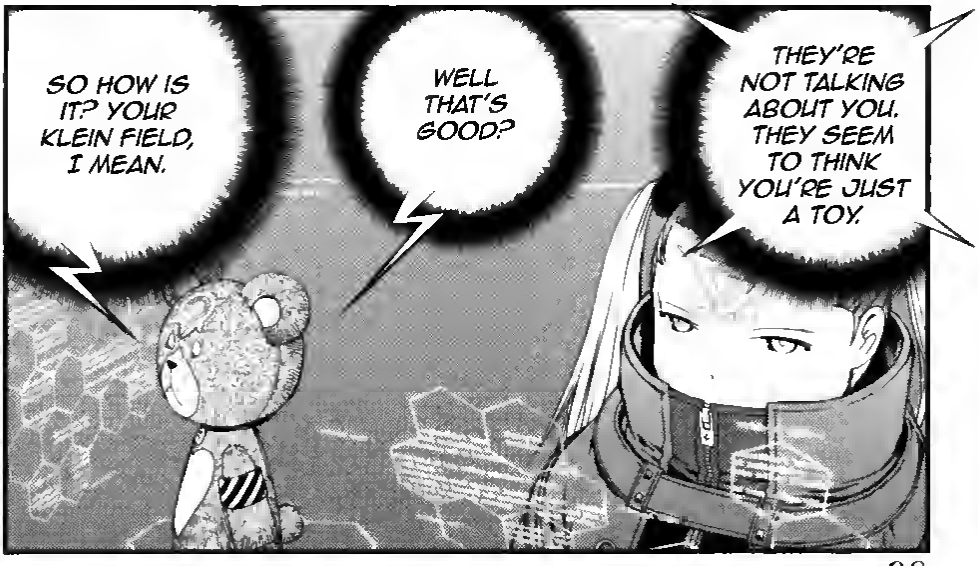

SOME MAY BE REAL, AND PRETENDING TO BE BLUFFS.
SOME OF THESE ARE BLUFFS.
THERE ARE ALSO PROBABLY TEAMS AIMING AT US WITHOUT TARGETING LASERS.
CLICK
CLICK

Depth:028


I'VE ANALYZED THEIR DIGITAL COMMUNICATION CODES. INITIATING INTERCEPTION NOW.
通信コード
CLICK
THEY'VE PROBABLY MADE THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE CAN SEE BEYOND THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM.
THE HUMANS AREN'T FOOLS.

Screen: "Communication Code Access Granted"

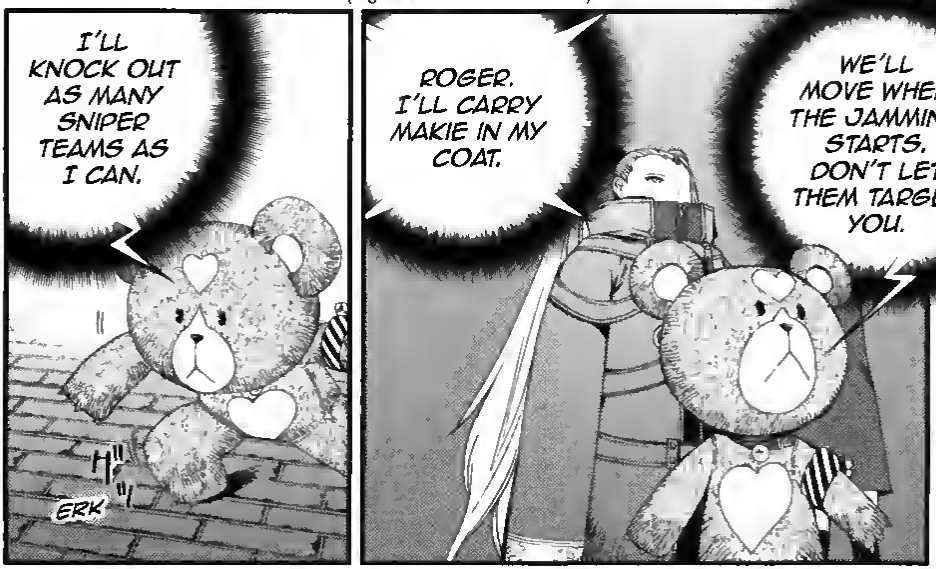

...AND ARE ADJUSTING THEIR FIRING TIMING AND ANGLE TO COMPENSATE.
CLICK
CLICK
THEY'RE ANALYZING OUR DEFENSIVE RADIUS BASED ON PAST COMBAT...



AND IF WE'RE TAKING HER WITH US WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING CRAZY.
CLICK
THERE'LL BE TROUBLE IF SHE'S HURT.
IF I JUST STAND HERE, I CAN PROTECT US AS MUCH AS WE NEED.
IT'S STILL AT LOW ENERGY LEVELS.
BUT OUR GOAL IS TO GET OUT OF HERE, SO THAT WON'T WORK.
I'M GOING TO DISRUPT THEIR SNIPER TEAM NETWORKS.
THAT WILL BUY US A MINIMUM OF EIGHT SECONDS.
...BUT SHE'S STILL VULNERABLE TO VERTICAL G-FORCES LIKE OTHER HUMANS.
THAT'S RIGHT. MAKIE'S BEEN ENHANCED A BIT...
CLICK
CLICK
HUH? WHY?
I'LL KNOCK OUT THEIR ANTI-AIRCRAFT RADAR TOO.

I SEE. SO THAT'S IT.
MAYA, SEND KIRISHIMA THE TACTICAL DATA.
THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO INTERFERE SOMEHOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT BUT THEY'RE APPROACHING AT HIGH SPEED AND ULTRA-LOW ALTITUDE.
WE'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION.
北警区所属 NPTH-003
北警区所属 NPTH-002
北警区所属 NPTH-001

(Signs: Northern Sector Force)


I'LL KNOCK OUT AS MANY SNIPER TEAMS AS I CAN.
ERK
ROGER. I'LL CARRY MAKIE IN MY COAT.
WE'LL MOVE WHEN THE JAMMING STARTS. DON'T LET THEM TARGET YOU.

HUH?
MAKIE.
SORRY ABOUT THIS.
INITIATING JAMMING.
ブーン
GLOMP
WE CAN'T SYNCH OUR TIMING LIKE THIS!
THE LINK'S BEEN SHUT OFF?
BZZT
!!
SCREECH
SCREECH

HQ! WHAT'S GOING ON?
BEEP
BEEP
BANG!
SOMEONE FIRED? A LITTLE BIT OF JAMMING FREAKED THEM OUT? WAS IT THE NEW KID ON TEAM THREE?
WHOOSH
MAINTAIN TARGETING UNTIL THE LINK COMES BACK. CONCEN-TRATE!

BANG!
WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH HQ!
THE MISSION IS STILL A GO!
SLOW DOWN THE TARGET SO THE SNIPER TEAM CAN HIT HER!
SEND IN ALL OUR IWAGANI!
GLANG
GLANG

WHOOSH
BOOM!
RATTA-TATTA

BOOM
BOOM
I CAN'T GET A LOCK!
BEEP
BEEP
DAMN IT!
VRRMM
BANG!

06
07
BOOM
BOOM
KIRISHIMA, THE RISK TO MAKIE IS INCREASING. I'M GOING TO PUT ALL MY EFFORTS INTO DODGING.
WE'LL MEET ABOARD MAYA.
ROGER.
!!
CRASH

THEY'RE HERE?
BAM
BAM
BAM
THE NORTHERN SECTOR SQUADS?

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
ZZROOM

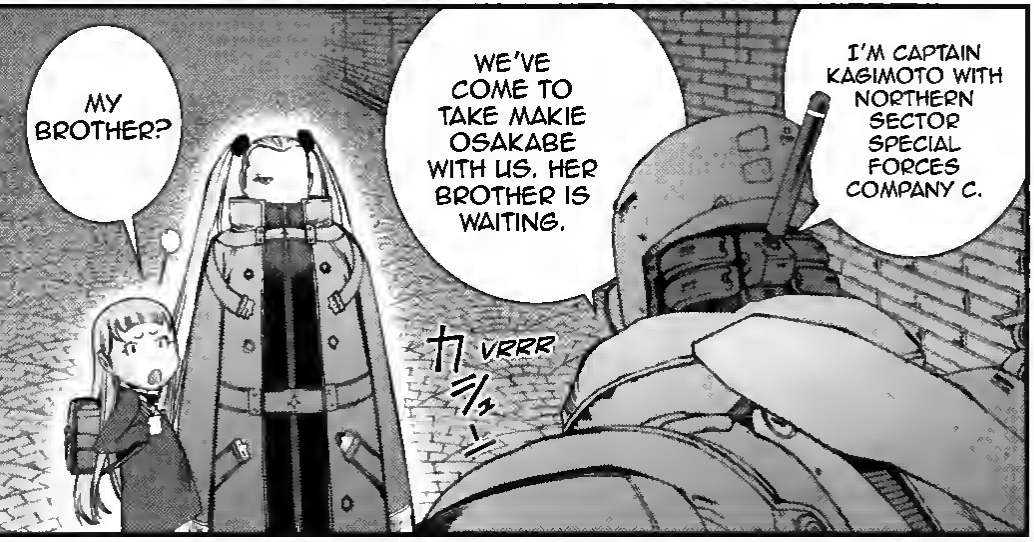
PSSSSHT
CLACK
SNAP
CLACK
CLANG

SKITTER
SKITTER
SKITTER
!!
ACGF
ACGF

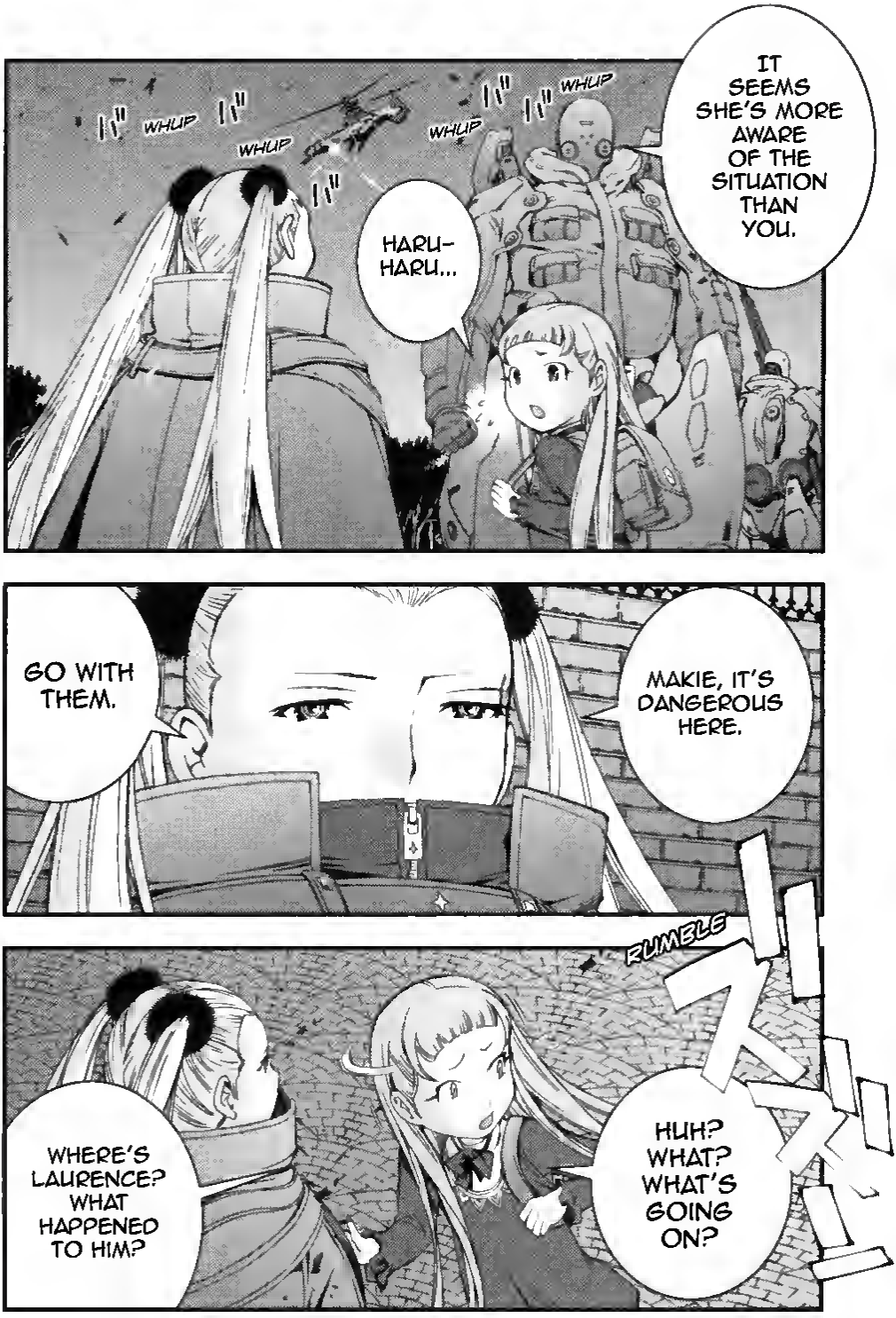
08
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
MAKOTO...
.....
BEEP
DAMMIT!
BEEP
!
BEEP

...HAVE NOTICED THAT LOCATION YET.
PSHEW
THEY MAY NOT...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
KLAT
KLAT
BEEP
WHUMP
KIRISHIMA.
UNDERSTOOD.
THE SITUATION'S CHANGED. RENDEZVOUS WITH ME.

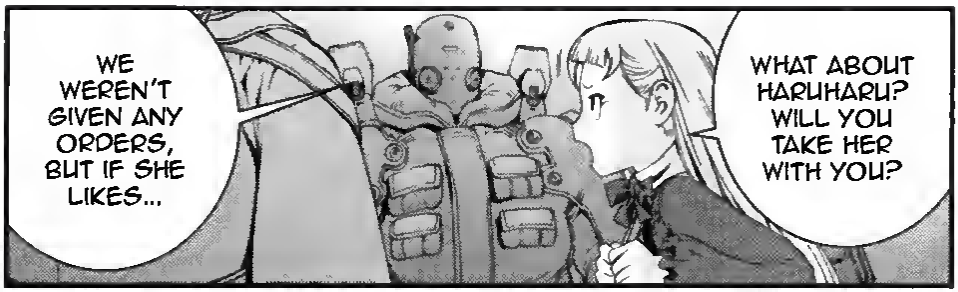
GASP!
CLACK
CLACK

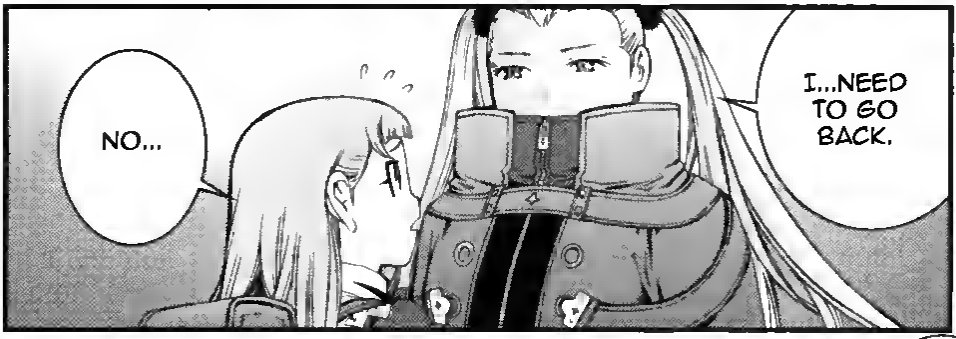

MY BROTHER?
WE'VE COME TO TAKE MAKIE OSAKABE WITH US. HER BROTHER IS WAITING.
VRRR
I'M CAPTAIN KAGIMOTO WITH NORTHERN SECTOR SPECIAL FORCES COMPANY C.

!?
THE NORTHERN SECTOR PRIME MINISTER.


WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
HARU-HARU...
IT SEEMS SHE'S MORE AWARE OF THE SITUATION THAN YOU.
GO WITH THEM.
MAKIE, IT'S DANGEROUS HERE.
RUMBLE
WHERE'S LAURENCE? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HUH? WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?

OUR PRESENT SUPERIORITY IS MOSTLY DUE TO SURPRISE.
THERE MAY BE REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE CENTRAL SECTOR.
PLEASE HURRY.
ANOTHER SQUAD WILL SECURE HIM WHEN HE'S FOUND.
WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO FIND DOCTOR OSAKABE.
HUH?
DOCTOR OSAKABE...? BUT MY GRANDFATHER ISN'T HERE...
WE'LL TALK LATER.
FIRST YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN AND GET OUT OF HERE.
LAURENCE WILL CATCH UP.


WE WEREN'T GIVEN ANY ORDERS, BUT IF SHE LIKES...
WHAT ABOUT HARUHARU? WILL YOU TAKE HER WITH YOU?

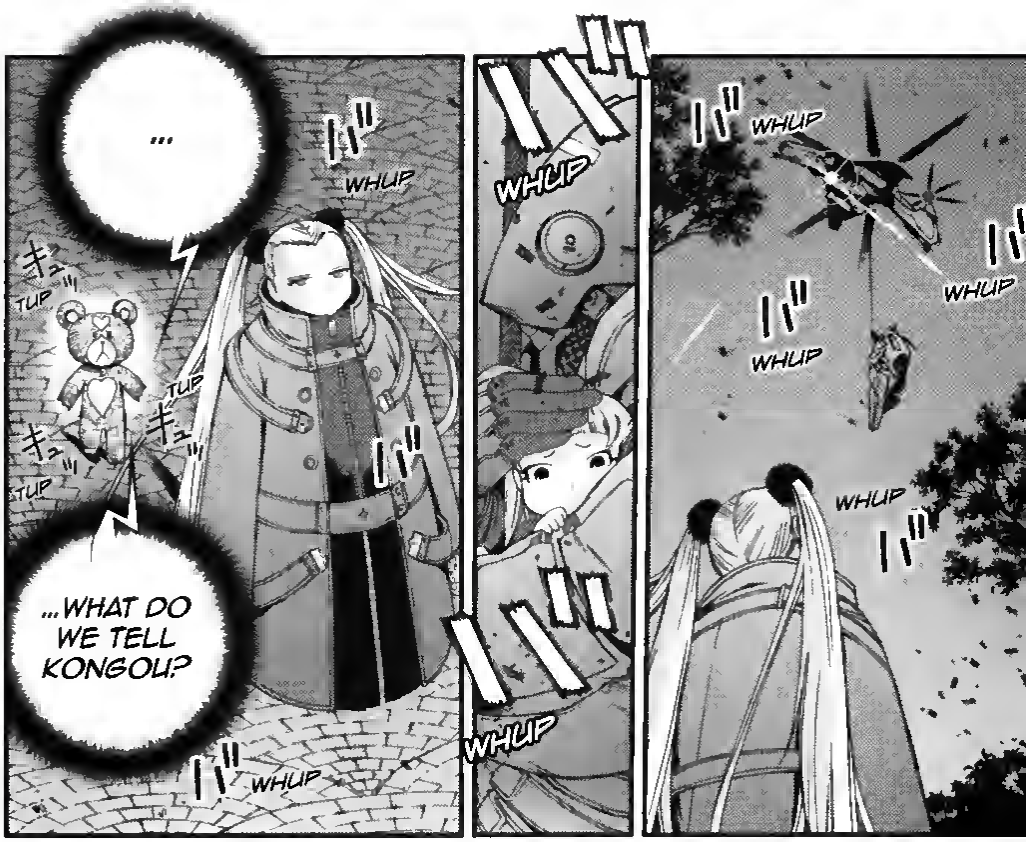

NO...
I...NEED TO GO BACK.

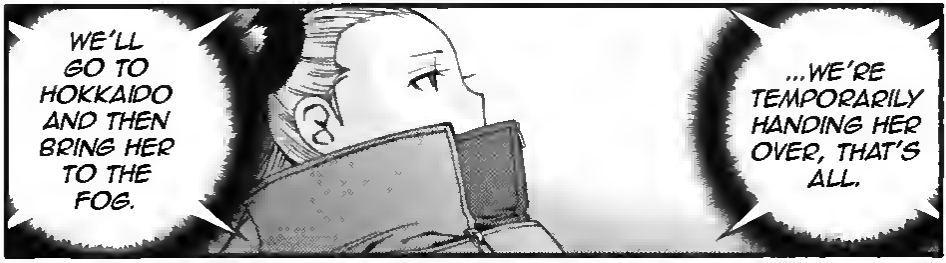
I PROMISE I'LL COME TO YOU.

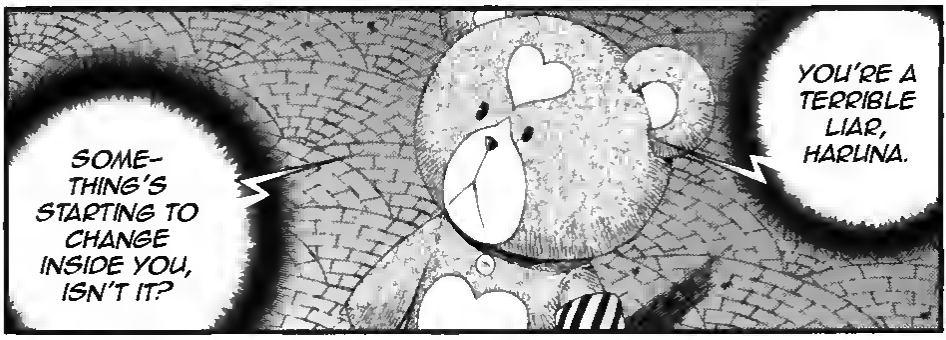
IT'S OKAY. I'LL COME TO YOU.
PAT

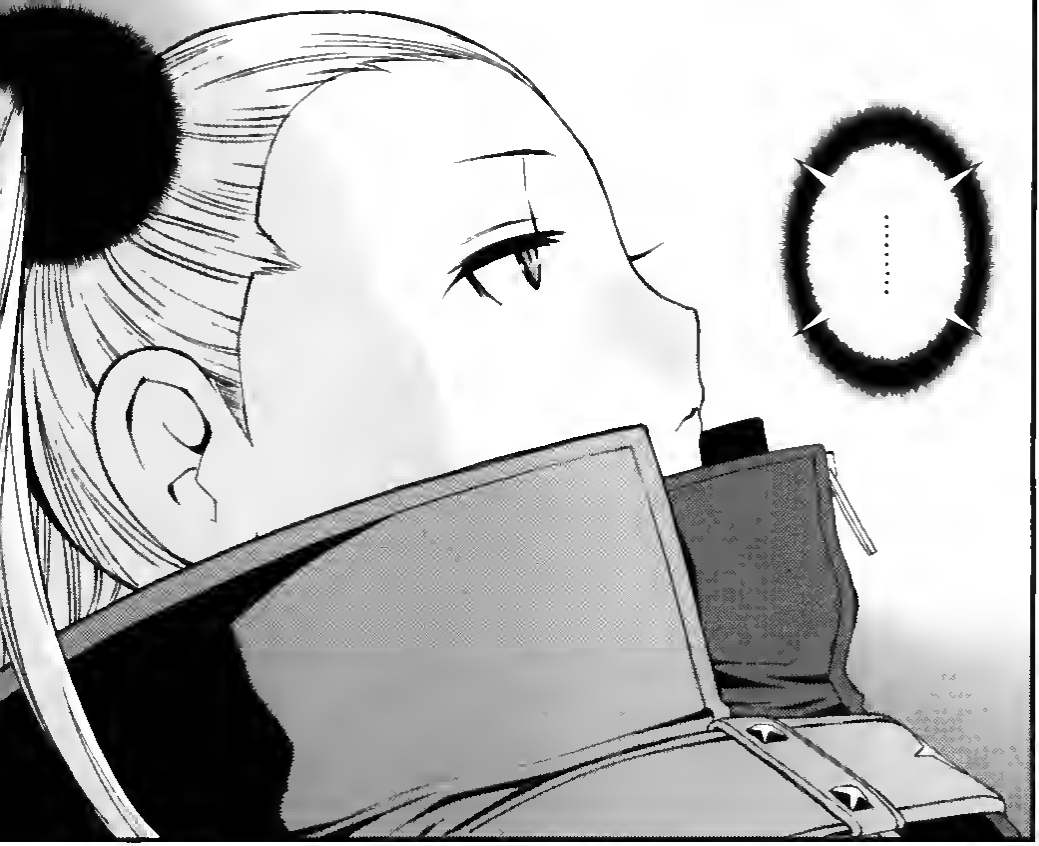
BUT...!
BUT...

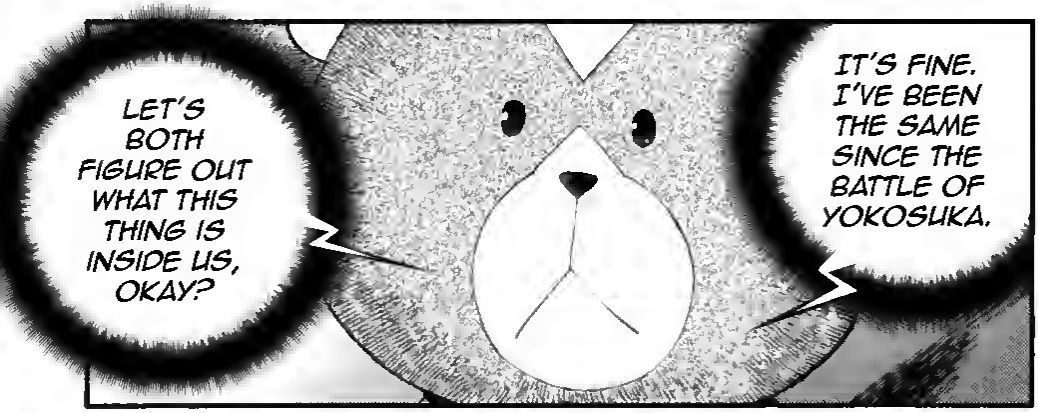
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE.
PLEASE, MAKIE.
ALL RIGHT.
.....
RUMBLE
PLEASE, HURRY.
PAT PAT
THANK YOU.

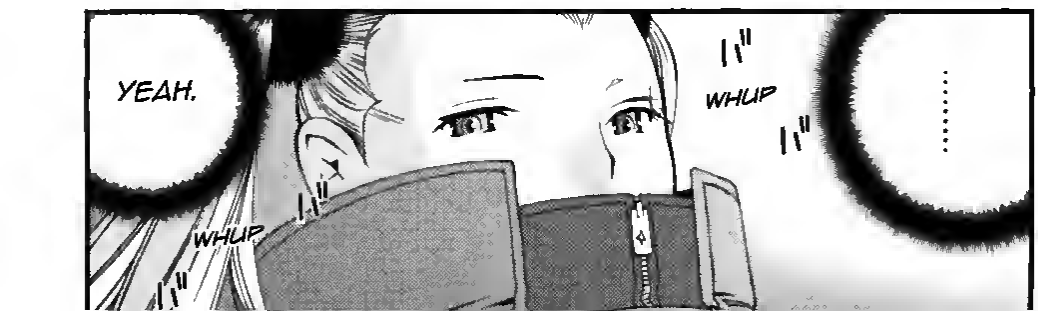

...
WHUP
TUP
TUP
TUP
...WHAT DO WE TELL KONGOU?
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP


WE'LL GO TO HOKKAIDO AND THEN BRING HER TO THE FOG.
...WE'RE TEMPORARILY HANDING HER OVER, THAT'S ALL.


SOME-THING'S STARTING TO CHANGE INSIDE YOU, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE A TERRIBLE LIAR, HARUNA.


.....


LET'S BOTH FIGURE OUT WHAT THIS THING IS INSIDE US, OKAY?
IT'S FINE. I'VE BEEN THE SAME SINCE THE BATTLE OF YOKOSUKA.


YEAH.
WHUP
WHUP
.....

THIS IS...
...MY... CHANCE.
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
TCHAK
WHAT ARE THE GUYS...
...FROM THE NORTHERN SECTOR DOING?
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
JUST BEFORE THEY GET INTO THE HELI-COPTER...
I'LL TAKE OUT THE DESIGNER CHILD...

ROGER...
NO ONE'S CALLED OFF THE SNIPERS...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
GRIP

SLAM
POP
POP
POP
HUFF
HUFF
THUD

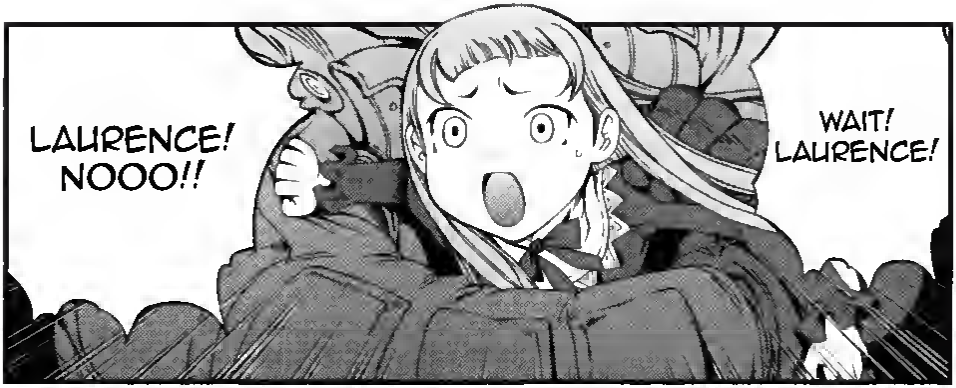
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
!
BANG

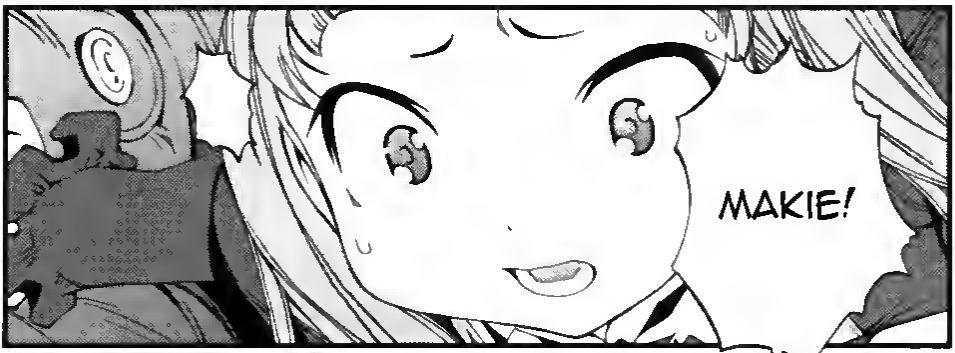
Depth:028／END

ARPEGGIO
OF BLUE STEEL

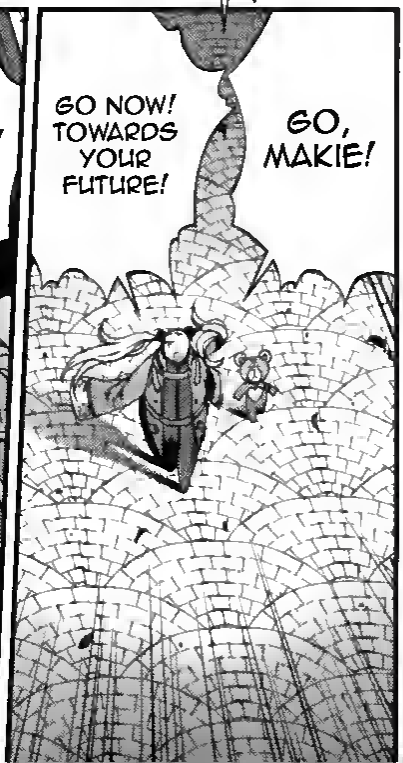
LA—
LAURENCE...?
CLICK
CLICK

Depth:029
LAURENCE!!
!
ZREEE
GET THE HELICOPTER OUT OF HERE! WE'LL RETURN ON UNITS TWO AND THREE!
ROGER!
BAM
WAIT! LAURENCE! LAURENCE IS—!


LAURENCE! NOOO!!
WAIT! LAURENCE!


MAKIE!

HARUHARU! LAURENCE IS...!
HARUHARU! BUT—!
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL

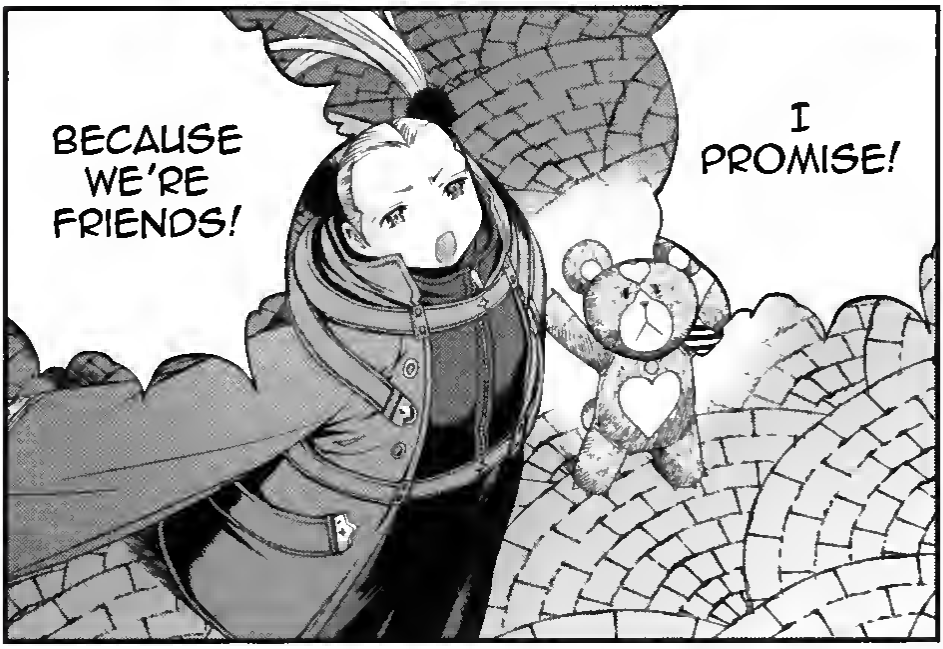

GO NOW! TOWARDS YOUR FUTURE!
GO, MAKIE!

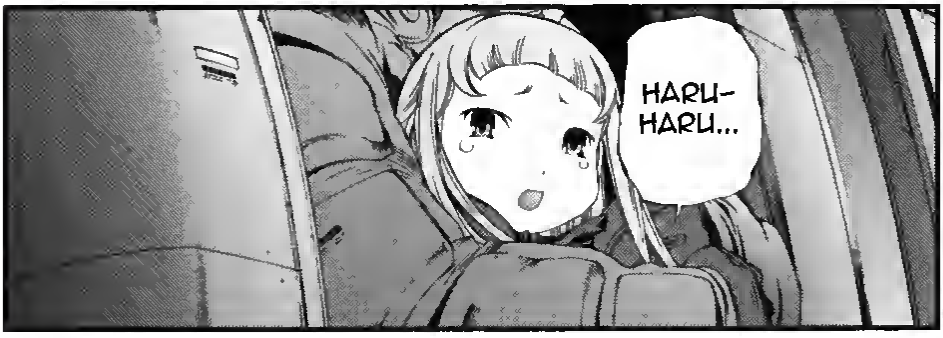
I'M ALL ALONE!
I'M...

I'LL COME FOR YOU!
YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

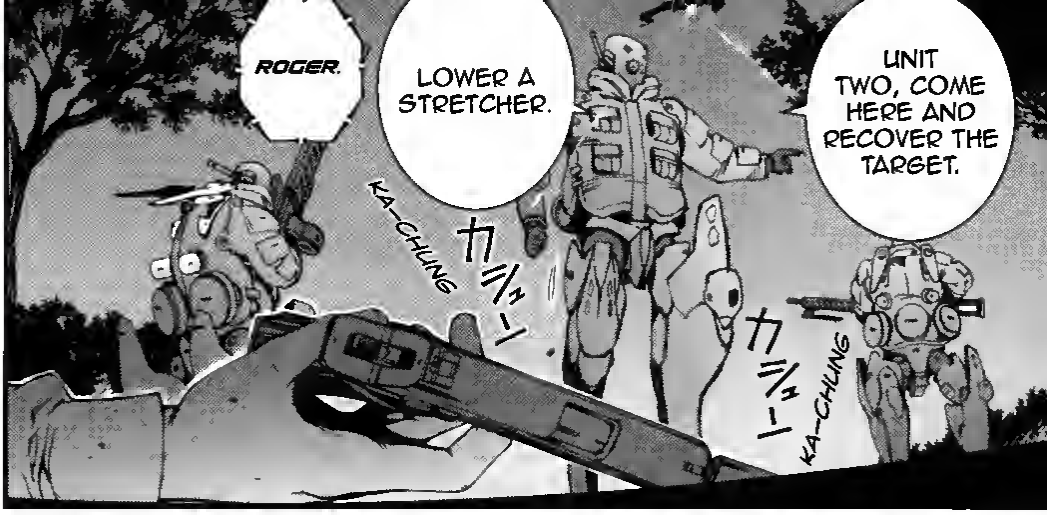
BECAUSE I'M YOUR FRIEND!
I'LL COME FOR YOU, NO MATTER WHAT!

FR—
FRIEND...

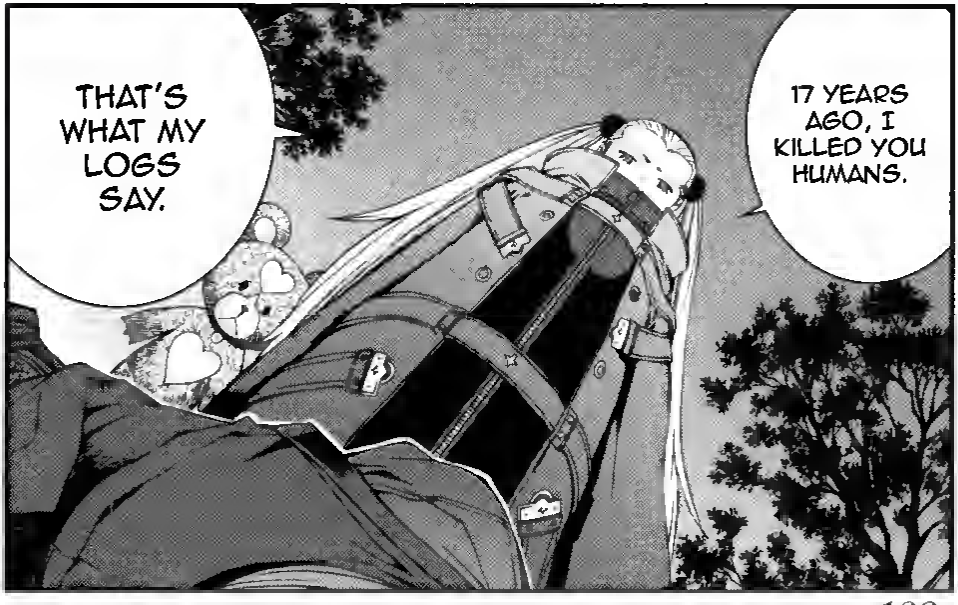

I PROMISE!
BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS!


HARU-HARU...

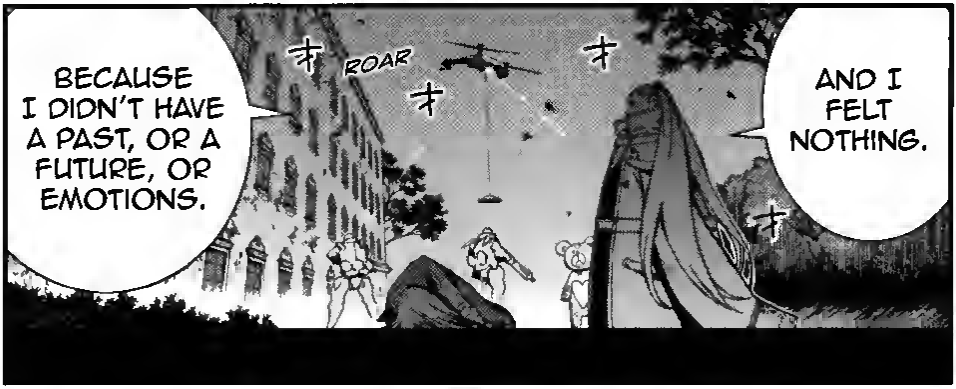
GO, MAKIE!
YOUR FUTURE BELONGS TO YOU!
NO ONE ELSE!
...IS WHAT HE WISHED FOR YOU.
T
T
ZREEE
T
T
THAT...

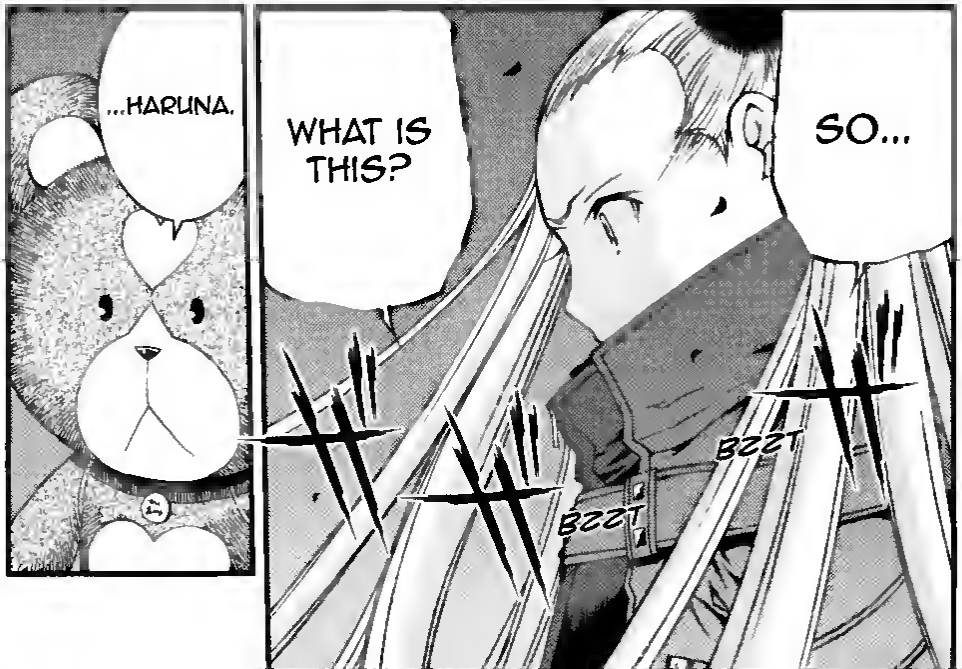

ROGER.
LOWER A STRETCHER.
UNIT TWO, COME HERE AND RECOVER THE TARGET.
KA-CHUNG
KA-CHUNG

STEP
STEP


THAT'S WHAT MY LOGS SAY.
17 YEARS AGO, I KILLED YOU HUMANS.

IT WASN'T JUST ONE OR TWO.
IT WAS LIKELY...
...A MINIMUM OF ONE OR TWO HUNDRED.


ROAR
AND I FELT NOTHING.
BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE A PAST, OR A FUTURE, OR EMOTIONS.


SO...
WHAT IS THIS?
BZZT
BZZT
...HARUNA.

SO WHAT IS THIS I FEEL SWIRLING WITHIN ME?
IS THIS SOMETHING THE MENTAL MODEL HAS BROUGHT ME?
OR...
JUST ONE PERSON HAS DIED...
JUST A SINGLE PERSON...
BZZT
BZZT

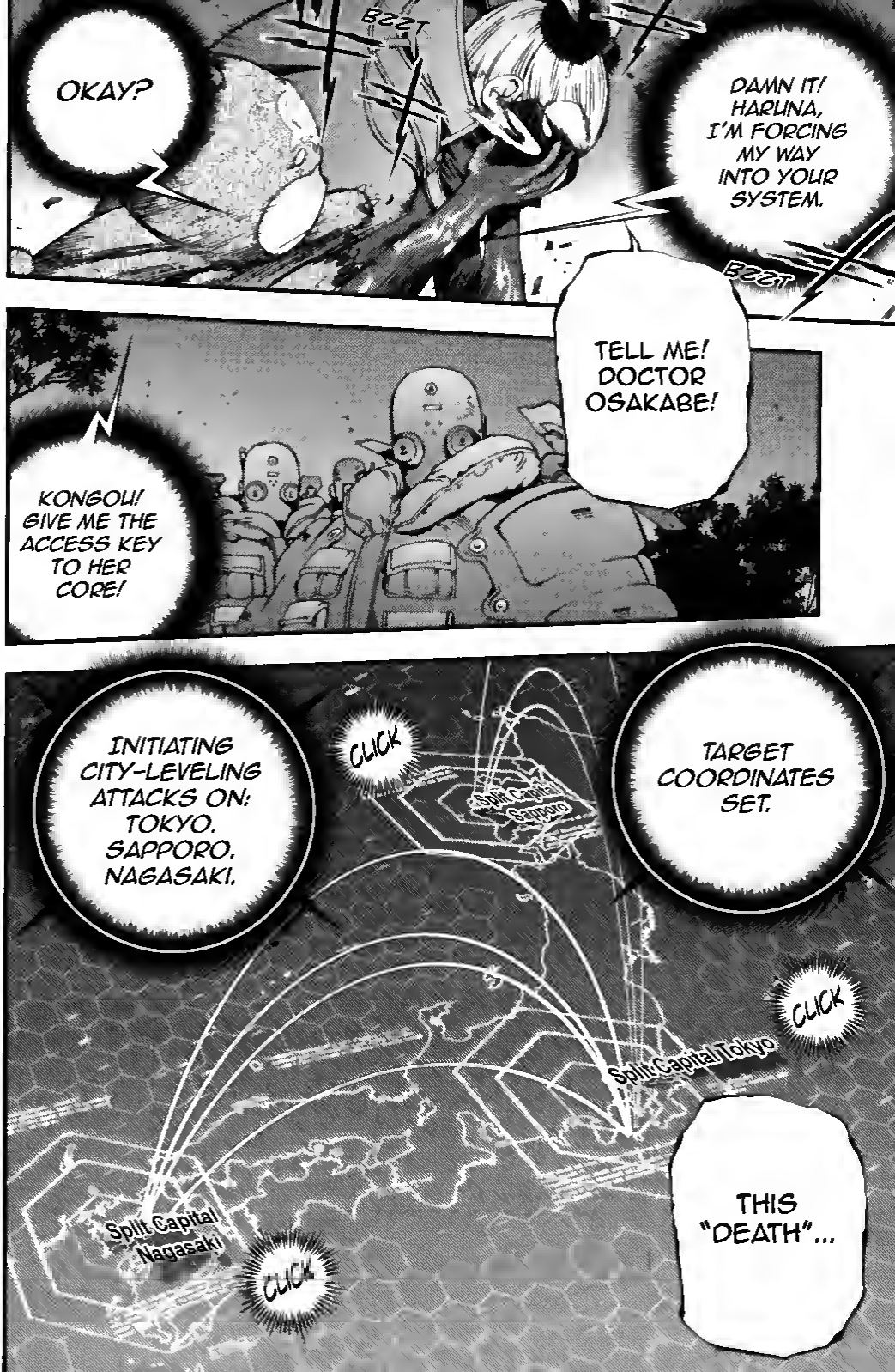
IS IT SOMETHING MY CORE HAS BROUGHT ME...
...BECAUSE IT ALREADY LEARNED A PORTION OF HUMANITY?
KREE
IS THIS DEATH?
HAVE I JUST NOW UNDER-STOOD DEATH?
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID. SO AM I THE SAME?
"SO LONG AS YOU UNDER-STAND ME."

WHAT IS THIS "DEATH"?
WHAT IS THIS DEATH I SEE BEFORE ME?
...DOCTOR OSAKABE.
TELL ME...
...THIS IMPULSE IT BRINGS...
AND WHAT IS...
...THAT IS RAGING INSIDE ME?

CLANG
FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM.
INITIATING ACTIVATION OF ALL UNITS...
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
HARUNA! THIS'S BAD!
YOUR SYSTEMS ARE DIRECTLY LINKED TO MAYA!
TELL ME...WHAT IS THIS SENSATION I CAN'T PUT INTO WORDS?
WHAT IS THIS FEELING?
HARUNA!

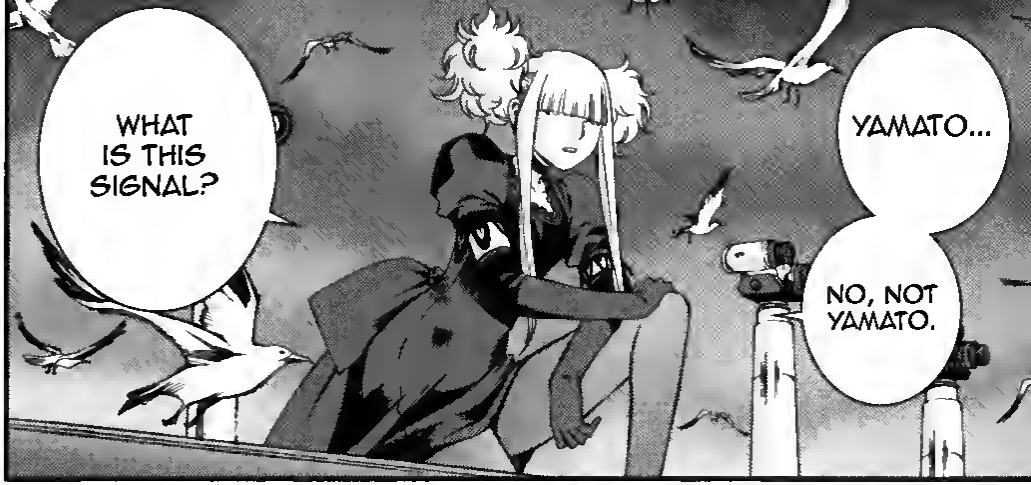
KROOM
KROOM
WHY DOES THIS SENSATION CONTINUE TO SWELL?
MY PROCESSING UNITS...
BZZT
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
THEY CAN'T FIND AN ANSWER.
...KEEP SPITTING OUT NON-SENSICAL RESULTS.

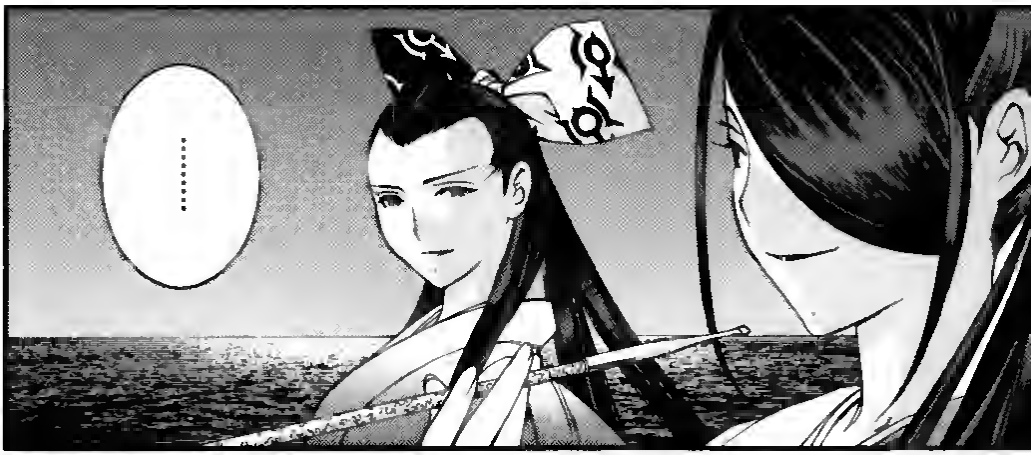
SHUT DOWN YOUR EMOTIONAL SIMULATION!
HARUNA! SNAP OUT OF IT!
TELL ME... TELL ME!
IF I AM "MAKIE'S FRIEND" THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?
FLAGSHIP HARUNA'S OFFENSIVE IMPULSE SIGNAL HAS BEEN DETECTED. ATTACK DEPTH A.
DOCTOR!
ATTACK AREA IS...

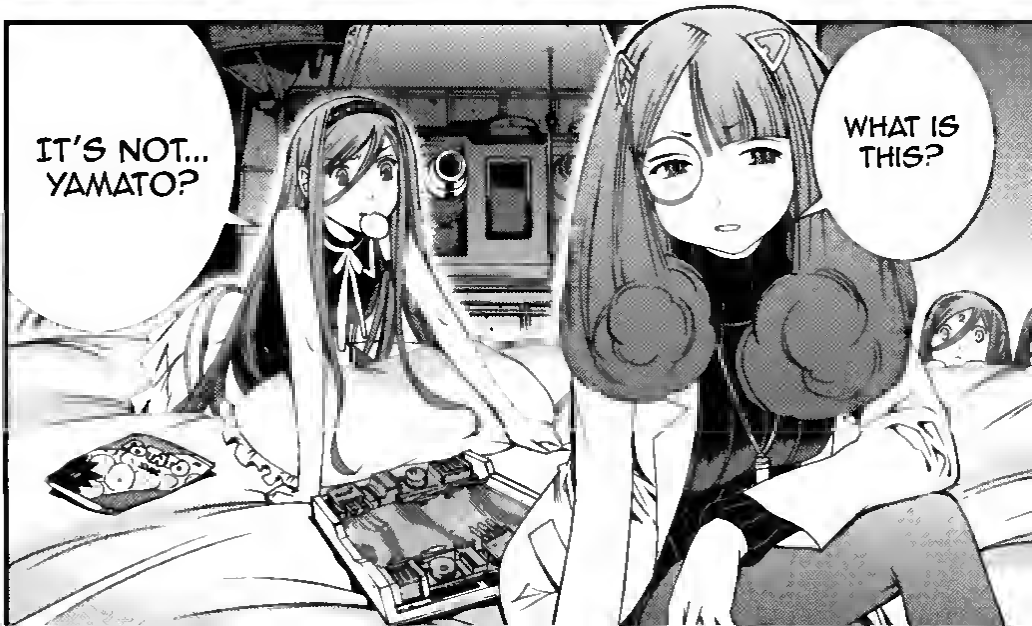

BZZT
OKAY?
DAMN IT! HARUNA, I'M FORCING MY WAY INTO YOUR SYSTEM.
BZZT
TELL ME! DOCTOR OSAKABE!
KONGOU! GIVE ME THE ACCESS KEY TO HER CORE!
INITIATING CITY-LEVELING ATTACKS ON: TOKYO. SAPPORO. NAGASAKI.
CLICK
Split Capital Sapporo
TARGET COORDINATES SET.
CLICK
Split Capital Tokyo
Split Capital Nagasaki
CLICK
THIS "DEATH"...

NO! THERE'S NO TIME!
ANYONE WHO BRINGS THIS "DEATH"...
MUST BE DESTROYED!

YOU MUSTN'T DO THAT, HARUNA.


WHAT IS THIS SIGNAL?
YAMATO...
NO, NOT YAMATO.

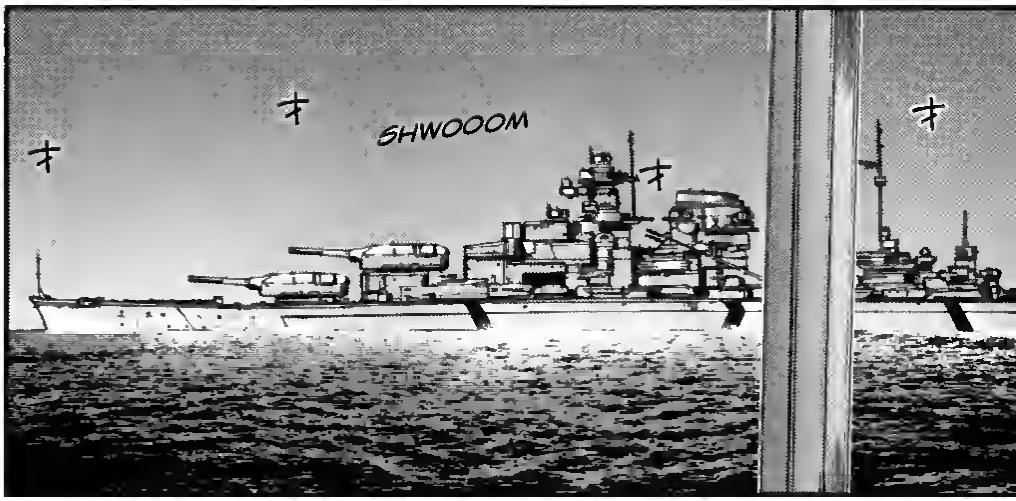

.....

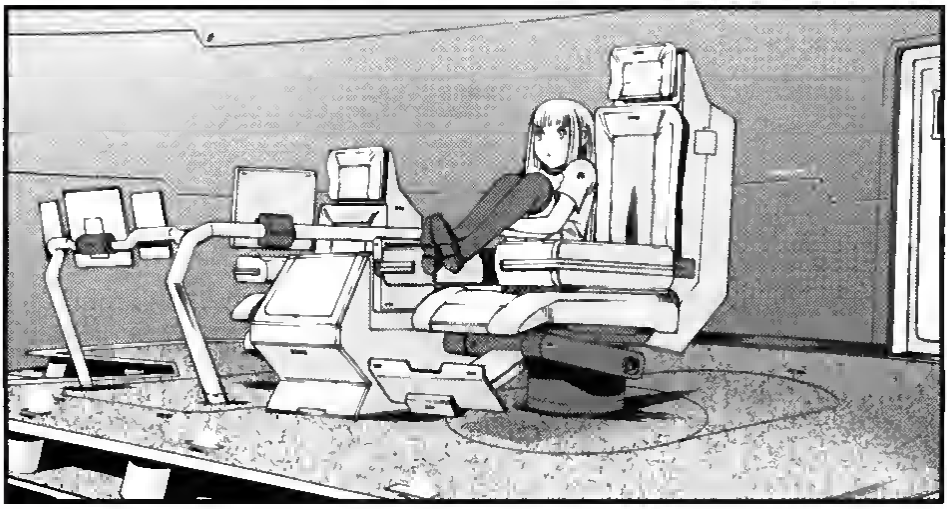

IT'S NOT... YAMATO?
WHAT IS THIS?

SO, APPARENTLY IT WASN'T DESTROYED.
RIGHT?

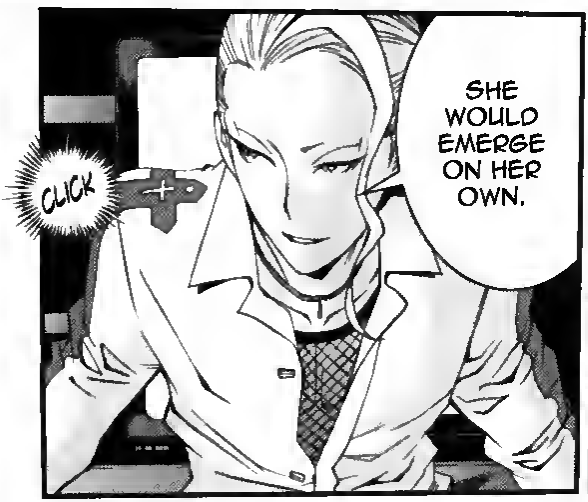
FATHER?

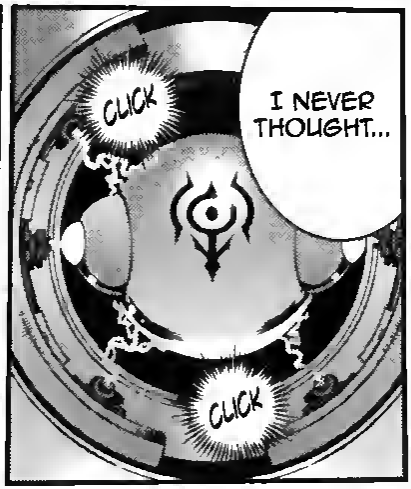
SHWOOOM


SHWOOOM

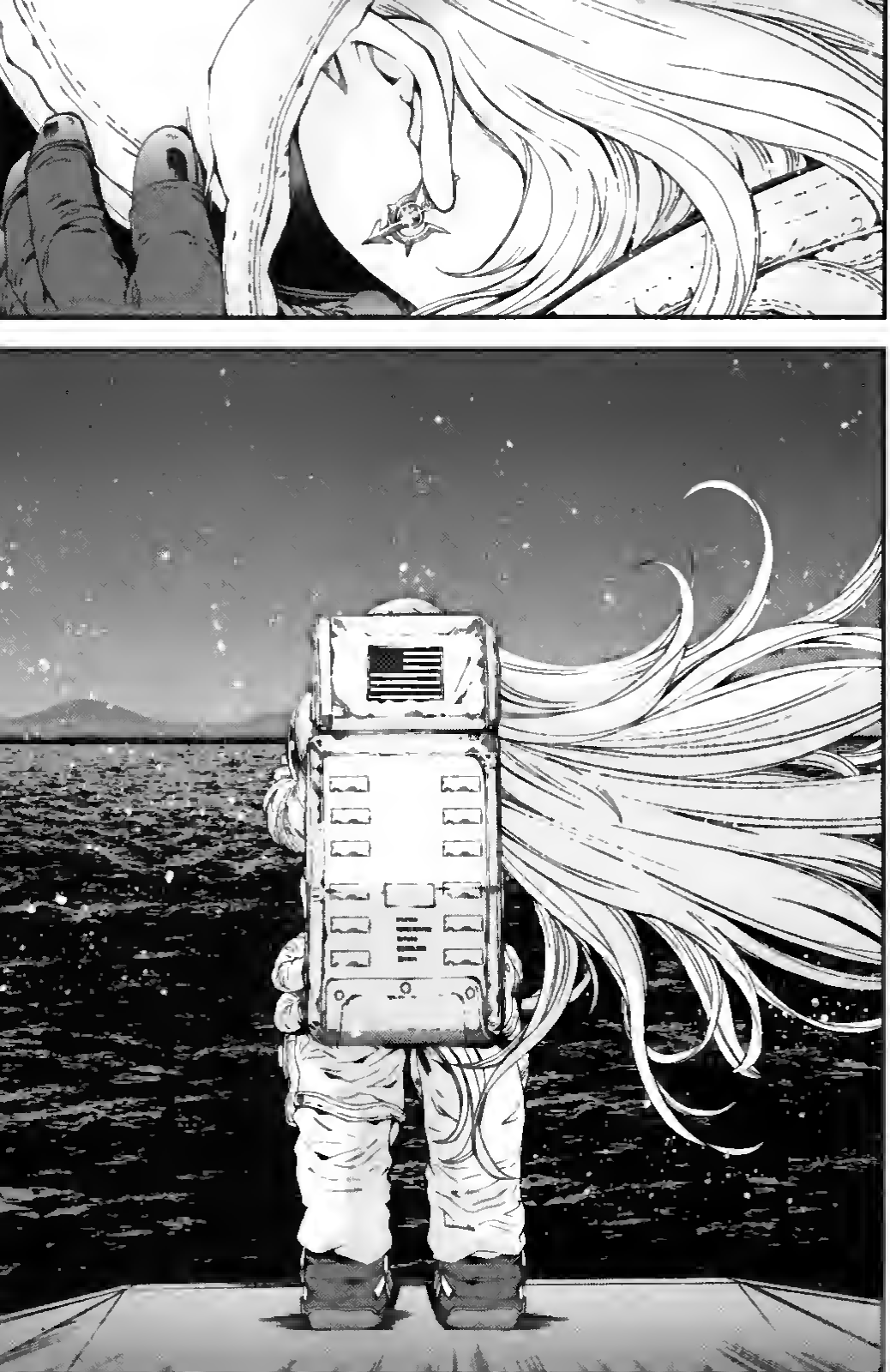


THE ADMIRALTY CODE...


CLICK
SHE WOULD EMERGE ON HER OWN.


CLICK
I NEVER THOUGHT...
CLICK

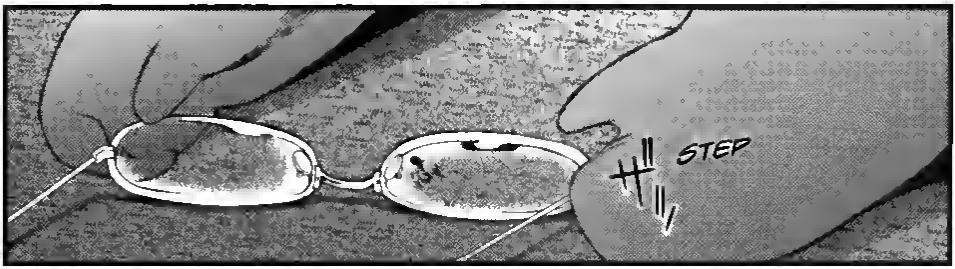
SHWOOOM
SHWOOOM



.....
WHAT JUST—?
HEY, HARUNA.
YEAH.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CLANG
CLANG
LET'S RETURN TO THE FLEET.
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
WE'RE WITH-DRAWING.
CLANG

WE'RE LEAVING.
UNDER-STOOD.
WE'VE BEEN GIVEN NO ORDERS REGARDING YOU.
SO LONG AS YOU DON'T INTERFERE WITH OUR MISSION, THAT'S FINE.
I'VE NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH YOUR MISSION.
STEP.
DO AS YOU LIKE.
I HOLD THE RANKING OF FLEET FLAGSHIP...
...AND THE FIRST FEELING I ENCOUNTER...
STEP
STEP
...SENDS ME SPINING OUT OF CONTROL? HOW PATHETIC.
.....

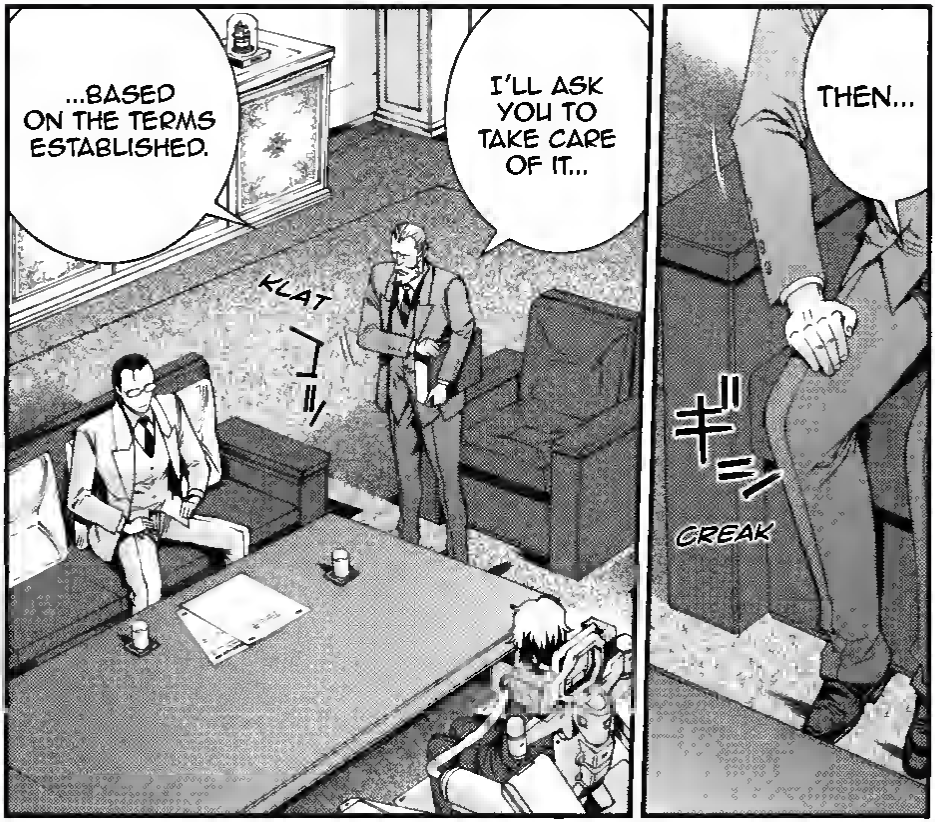
STEP
STEP


STEP

HARUNA...
.....

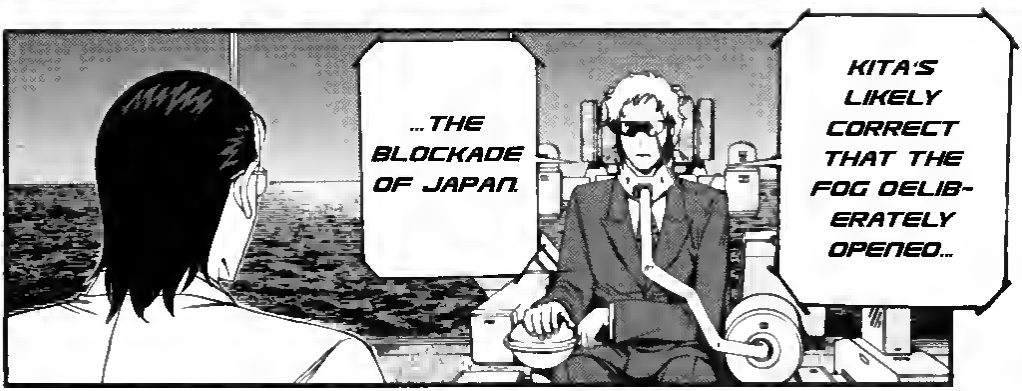
ROAR
WE'LL RENDEZ-VOUS WITH MAYA.
ROGER.

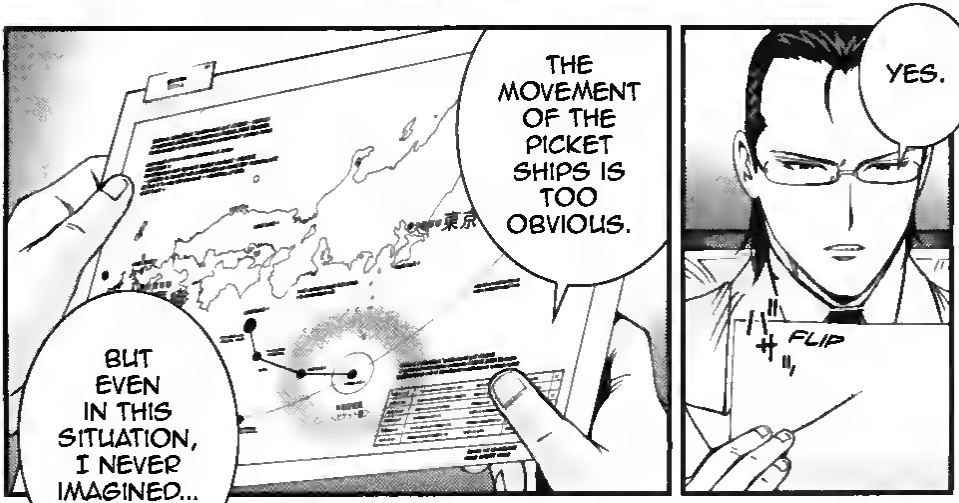
ZSSSHHH

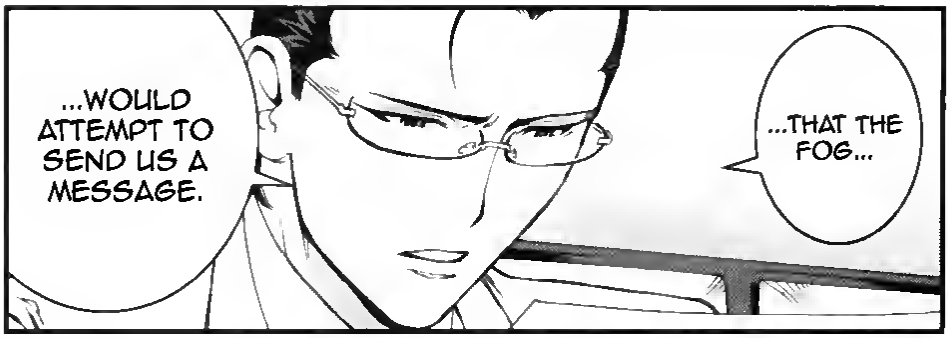

...BASED ON THE TERMS ESTABLISHED.
I'LL ASK YOU TO TAKE CARE OF IT...
KLAT
THEN...
CREAK

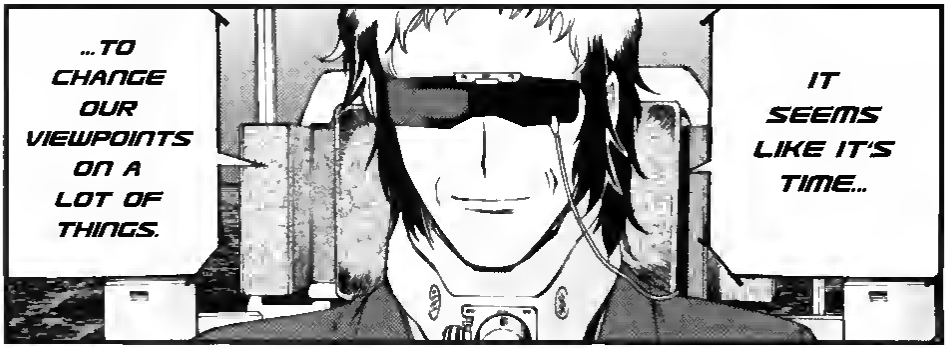
I'LL WITHDRAW AFTER THIS OPERA-TION.
KLAT
KLAT
I FACED MY FATE DURING THE GREAT NAVAL BATTLE 17 YEARS AGO.
I WON'T GO BACK ON MY WORD.
...NO MATTER WHAT.
BUT I'M DOING THIS...
SLAM

SECURE THE 401!
KLAT
THEN PROCEED! YOUR TARGET IS IWO JIMA.
KLAT
IT'S ME. I'VE SPOKEN WITH THEM. WE'RE READY, AREN'T WE?
KLAT
YES, SIR! EVERY-THING'S READY TO GO.
KLAT


...THE BLOCKADE OF JAPAN.
KITA'S LIKELY CORRECT THAT THE FOG DELIB-ERATELY OPENED...


BUT EVEN IN THIS SITUATION, I NEVER IMAGINED...
東京
THE MOVEMENT OF THE PICKET SHIPS IS TOO OBVIOUS.
YES.
FLIP

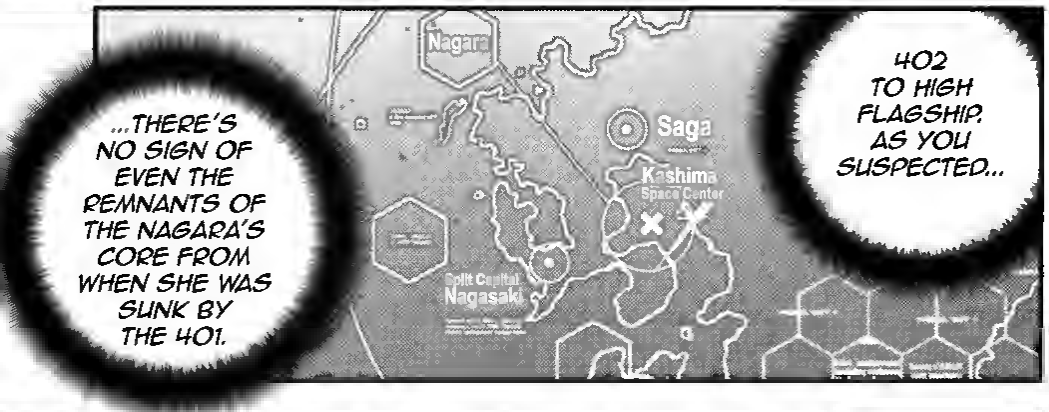

...WOULD ATTEMPT TO SEND US A MESSAGE.
...THAT THE FOG...

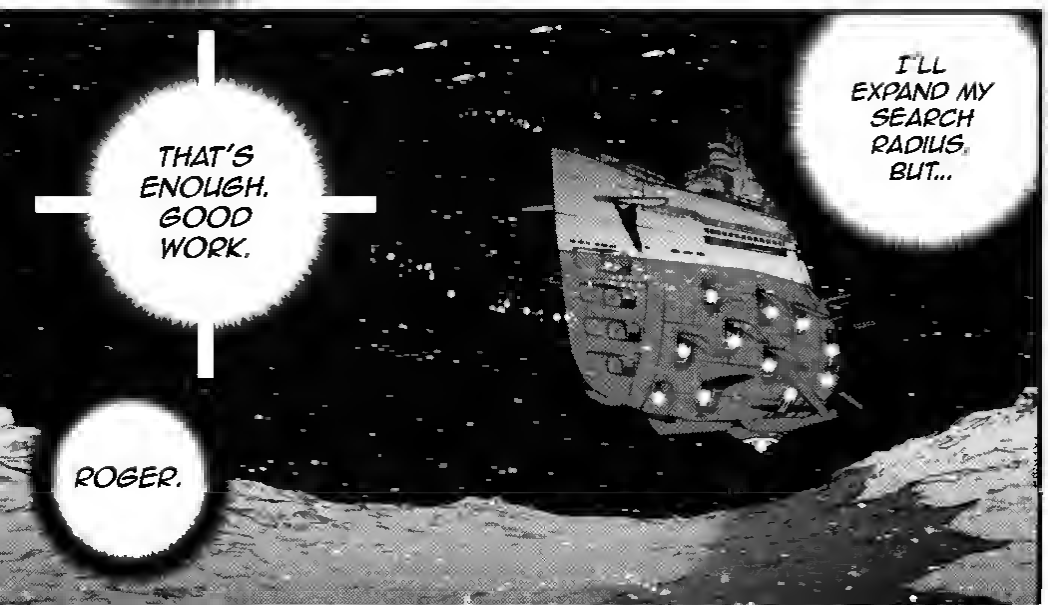

...TO CHANGE OUR VIEWPOINTS ON A LOT OF THINGS.
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S TIME...

NOW YOU JUST HAVE TO DO YOUR JOB.
KITA'S CASE WILL BE SENT TO THE PROSECUTORS, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE ATTACK ON IWO JIMA.

Depth:029／END

GWOOOOM
Depth:030


...THERE'S NO SIGN OF EVEN THE REMNANTS OF THE NAGARA'S CORE FROM WHEN SHE WAS SUNK BY THE 401.
Nagara
Saga
Kashima Space Center
Split Capital Nagasaki
402 TO HIGH FLAGSHIP. AS YOU SUSPECTED...


THAT'S ENOUGH. GOOD WORK.
I'LL EXPAND MY SEARCH RADIUS, BUT...
ROGER.

RUMBLE
THERE'S NO SIGN...
...THAT THE 401 RECOVERED HER CORE, EITHER.
THE MISSING NAGARA CORE...
WHAT...
...DOES IT MEAN?
SHWOOM

Book: "Tourist Attractions of Europe"

...WAS THAT?
WHAT...
WHY NOT ASK YAMATO?
I DON'T HAVE THE ACCESS CODES FOR HIGHER-LEVEL INFORMATION...
Augh!
!
AND HYUUGA WON'T TELL ME.
I CAN'T EXACTLY ASK KONGOU OR NAGATO NOW.
CREAK

SINCE YOU SAID, "WHAT... WAS THAT?"
AND WHY ARE YOU WEARING A SWIMSUIT TOO?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SO BASICALLY FROM THE BEGINNING!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE US SUBMARINE CRUISERS.
PLIP
WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT WAS?
SO I'LL ASK YOU THEN.

ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT IT WAS EASILY CAPABLE OF SHUTTING DOWN A HEAVY CRUISER WHO HAD ENTERED A FINAL ATTACK SEQUENCE...
NOT SURE.

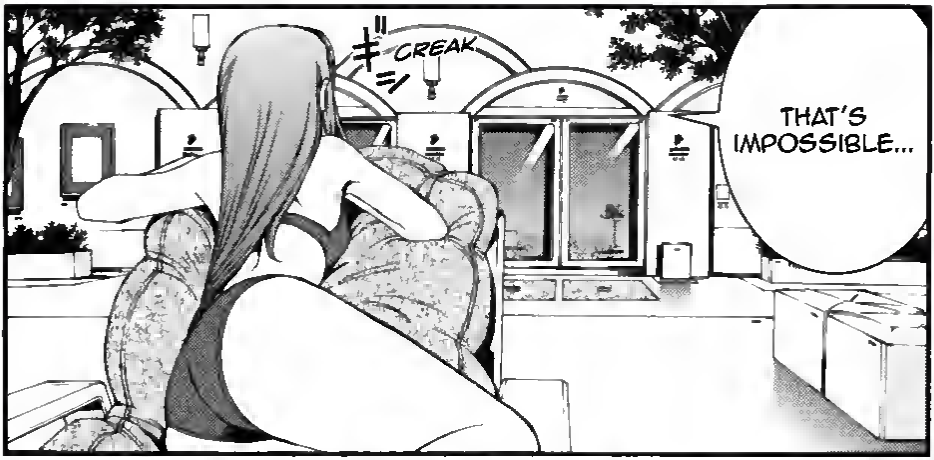
...AND INSTANTLY RETURNING AN OUT-OF-CONTROL LARGE BATTLESHIP TO SANITY.

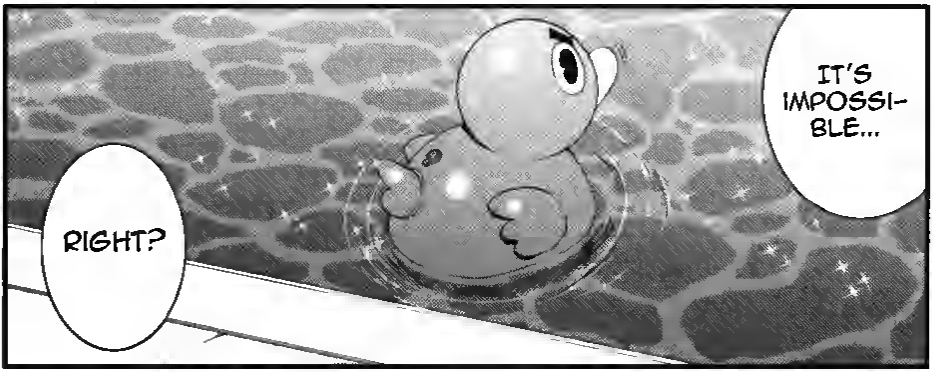
SHAK
DID HYUUGA TELL YOU?
YOU HAVE A LOT OF INFORMATION THAT I DON'T.

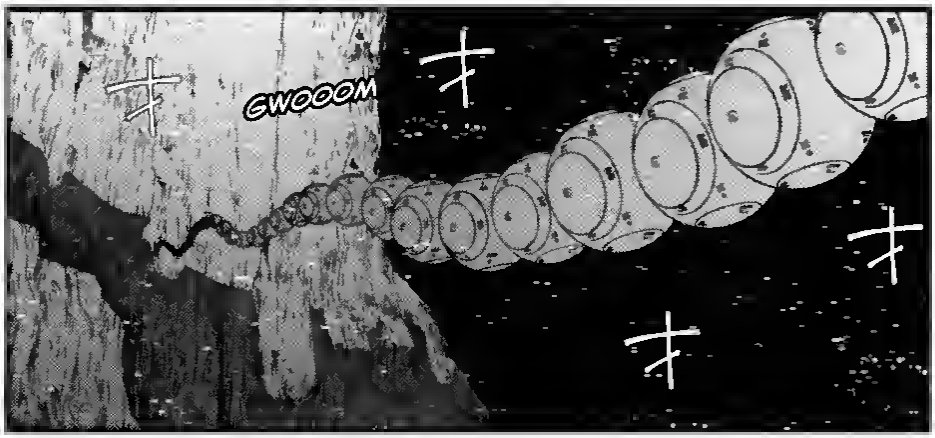
...ONE OF THE OLDEST MENTAL MODELS!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE...
HEH
HEH
HEH
!.....
BYE BYE!
I GOTTA GO.
TUP
TUP
TUP
IORI'S CALLING FOR ME.
OH...

.....
THAT'S RIGHT.
CLICK
CLICK
I'D FORGOTTEN...
OOF!
PSHOOM

OUR TEMPORAL RESOLUTION IS VERY HIGH...
401 IS LIKELY THE OLDEST MENTAL MODEL AFTER YAMATO.
...WHICH MEANS THAT SHE MUST HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE POINTS THAN ANYONE IN THE FOG.
THE GAME OF DEATH
IT'S ALMOST AS IF...
HUFF 131
HUFF 131
NO, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
!
WHAT AM I THINKING?


CREAK
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

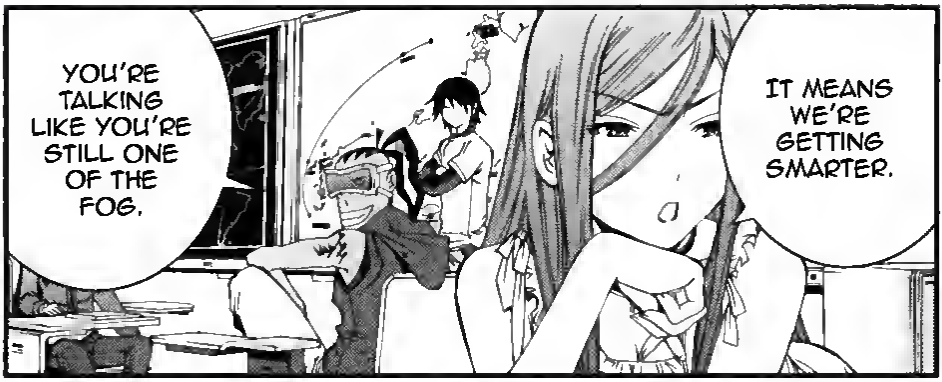

IT'S IMPOSSI-BLE...
RIGHT?

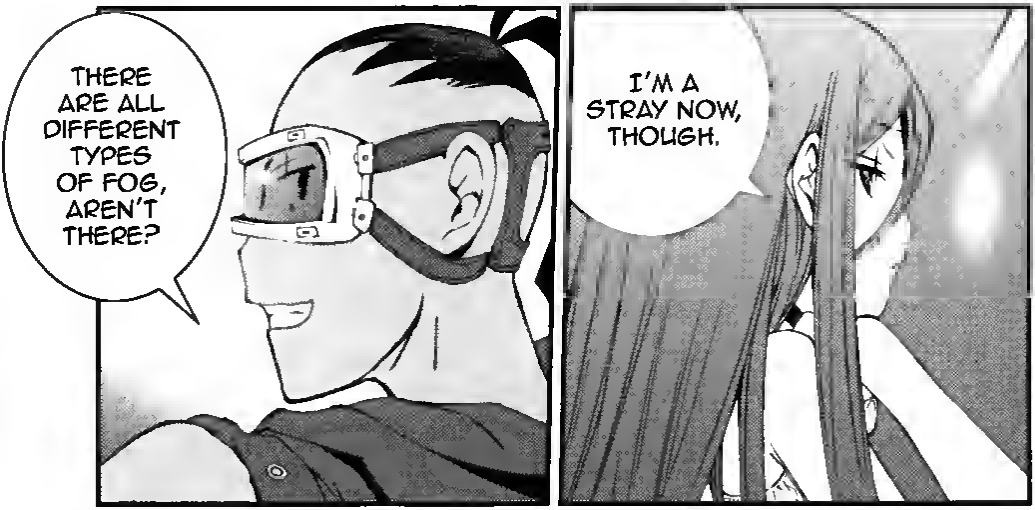

GWOOOM

CRYSTAL CLEAR.
PING
Iwo Jima
HOW ARE THE SONAR WIRES LOOKING?
PING
OKAY!
I'LL LET YOU DO THE TUNING FOR THE ANALYSIS SYSTEMS.
PING
BAND DISP
...BACK INTO NANO-MATERIAL TO HELP REPAIR IONA.
PING
I TURNED ALL THE RADAR SITES AND CANNON EMPLACEMENTS ON THE ISLAND SURFACE...
SO WE'RE RELYING ON YOUR EARS ABOVE AND UNDER THE SEA.
PING

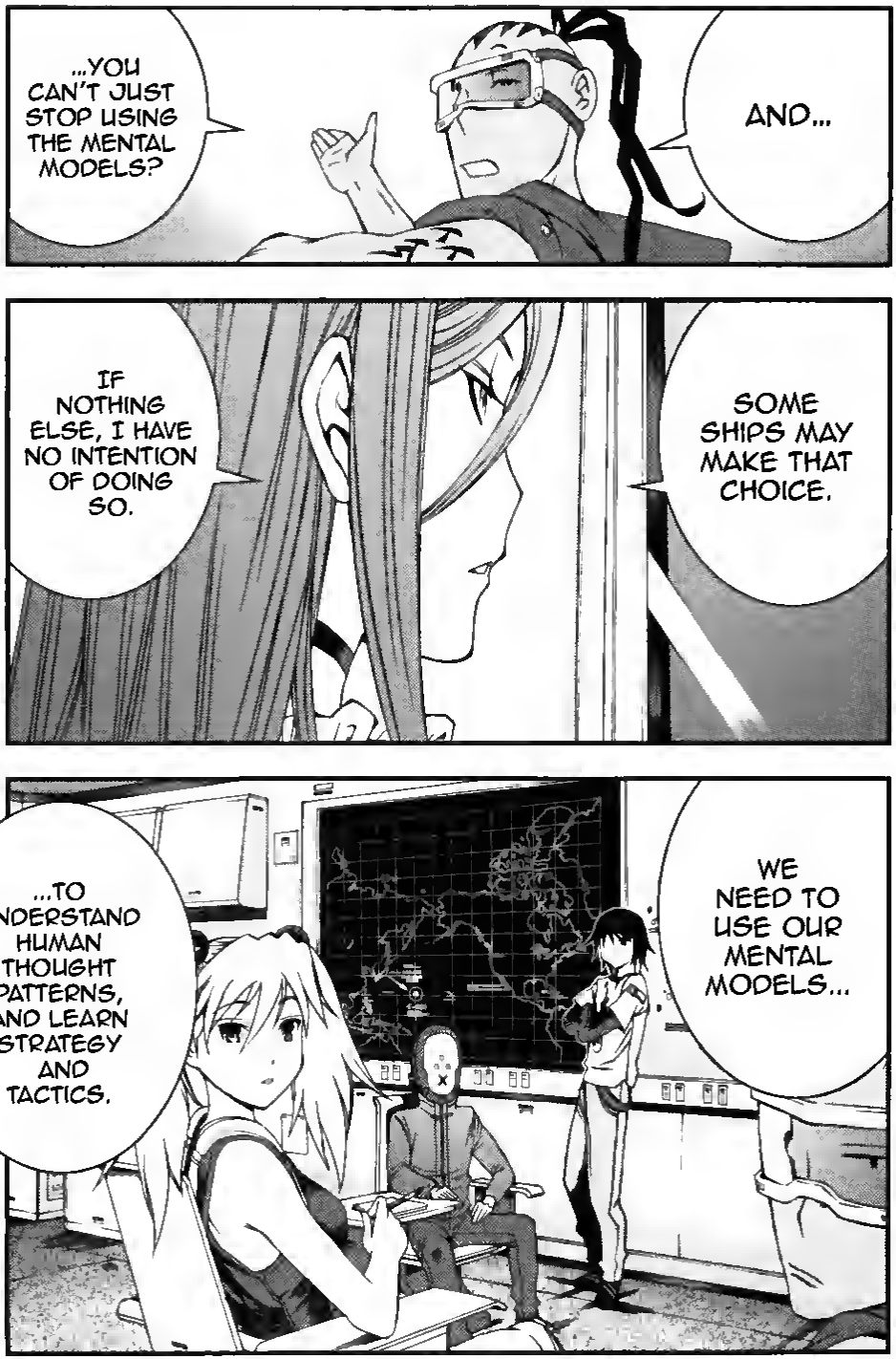
THAT'S JUST LIKE HER.
IT'S A LITTLE TOO OBVIOUS.
THE CAPTAIN WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF KONGOU'S PICKET SHIPS.
...WE CAN ASSUME SOME FORCE IS GOING TO BE COMING HERE.
ブリーフィングルーム
Briefing room
FROM THE MOVEMENT OF THESE PICKET SHIPS...
KONGOU IS CERTAINLY HOPING SO... WHICH IS WHY SHE CREATED THIS OPENING WITH THE PICKET SHIPS.
PROBABLY SOME FORCE THAT OPPOSES US.
東京

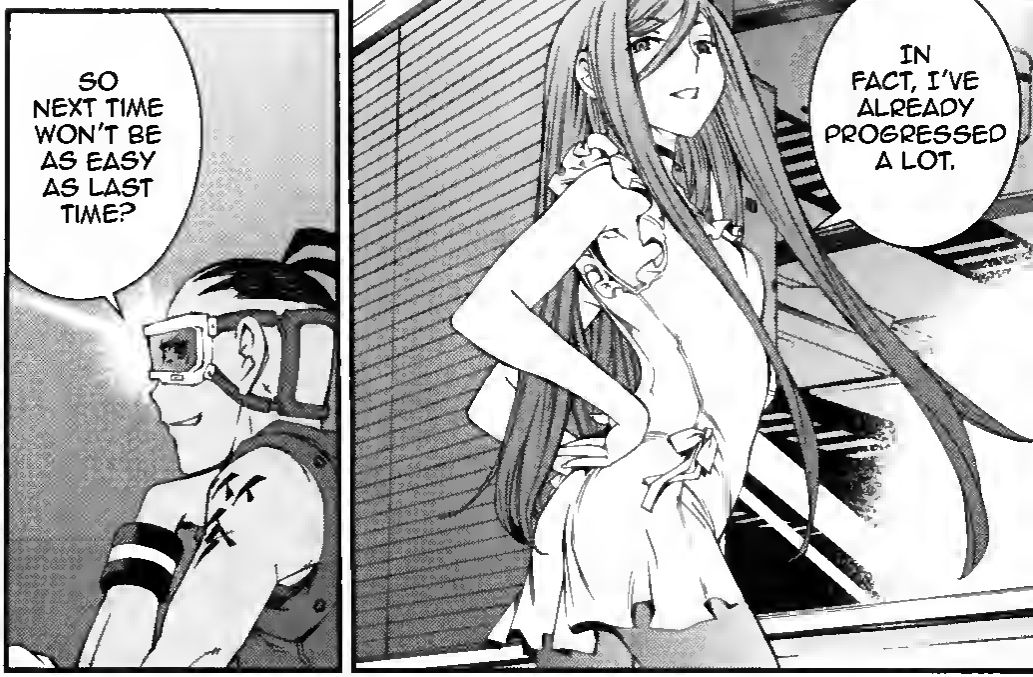
THIS IS SOMETHING WE'VE NEVER SEEN IN THE FOG FLEET BEFORE.
THAT'S NASTY, TRYING TO MAKE US HUMANS FIGHT EACH OTHER.


YOU'RE TALKING LIKE YOU'RE STILL ONE OF THE FOG.
IT MEANS WE'RE GETTING SMARTER.

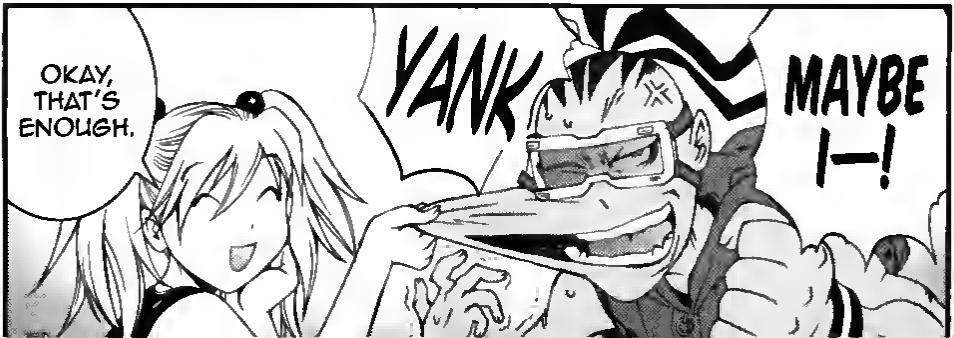

THERE ARE ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF FOG, AREN'T THERE?
I'M A STRAY NOW, THOUGH.

...SINCE WE GOT OUR MENTAL MODELS.
CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED RAPIDLY...
MANY SHIPS...
...TO BECOME UNCERTAIN.
MANY SHIPS ARE BEGIN-NING...

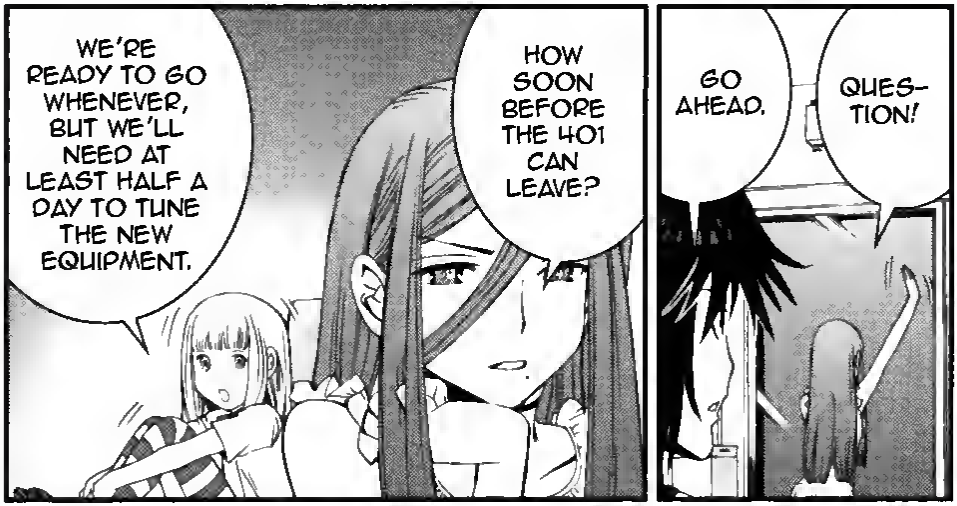

...YOU CAN'T JUST STOP USING THE MENTAL MODELS?
AND...
IF NOTHING ELSE, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING SO.
SOME SHIPS MAY MAKE THAT CHOICE.
...TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN THOUGHT PATTERNS, AND LEARN STRATEGY AND TACTICS.
WE NEED TO USE OUR MENTAL MODELS...


SO NEXT TIME WON'T BE AS EASY AS LAST TIME?
IN FACT, I'VE ALREADY PROGRESSED A LOT.

CLICK
WANNA GIVE IT A SHOT?
CLICK


OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.
YANK
MAYBE I—!

RIGHT NOW, IWO JIMA DOESN'T HAVE THE DEFENSIVE AND MONITORING SYSTEMS IT USED TO.
THEY WERE ORIGINALLY HYUUGA'S EQUIPMENT, BUT WE TURNED THEM BACK INTO NANO-MATERIAL...
...TO REPAIR THE 401.


HOW SOON BEFORE THE 401 CAN LEAVE?
WE'RE READY TO GO WHENEVER, BUT WE'LL NEED AT LEAST HALF A DAY TO TUNE THE NEW EQUIPMENT.
QUES-TION!
GO AHEAD.

IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DO THE TUNING AFTER WE LEAVE PORT.
IN ANY CASE... WE ALSO NEED TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE HAKUGEI.
HAS-003
Hakugei
I-401

WE'LL NEED TO STAY IN THIS AREA A WHILE EVEN AFTER LEAVING PORT.
長崎
WE CAN DO IT THEN.
HAS-003
"白鯨"
BUT IF WE WIND UP IN COMBAT DURING THAT TIME...
...WOULDN'T THERE BE A PROBLEM?
IF THAT HAPPENED BEFORE WE FULLY FINISHED TUNING...
...IT WOULD LIKELY HAVE SOME EFFECT.
SO IT LOOKS LIKE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO STAY HERE AT THE PORT...
...AND BUY AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE.

AS LONG AS WE DON'T LET THEM SURROUND US.
IONA, THE WORK ON THE EXTERIOR IS ALREADY DONE, RIGHT?
OF COURSE. THERE'S NO NEED TO CHECK THE SEALS, EITHER.

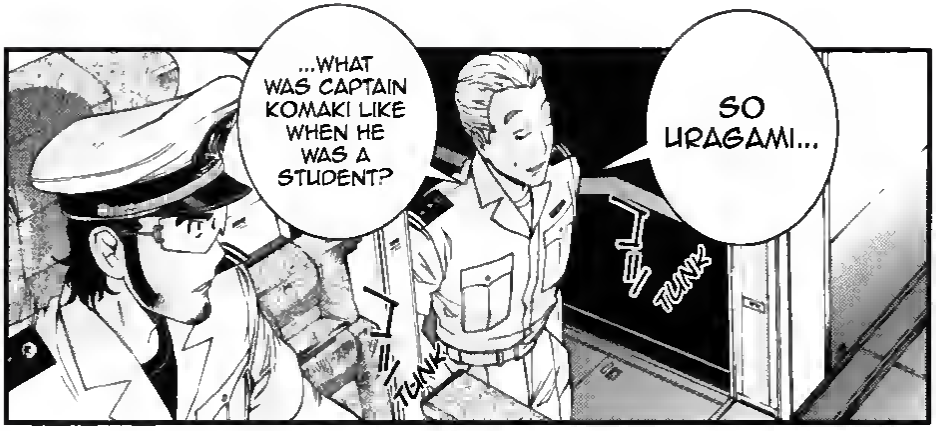
THERE'S NO WAY THAT MECH FETISHIST WOULD SCREW THAT UP. YOU CAN TRUST HER.
PAT
PAT

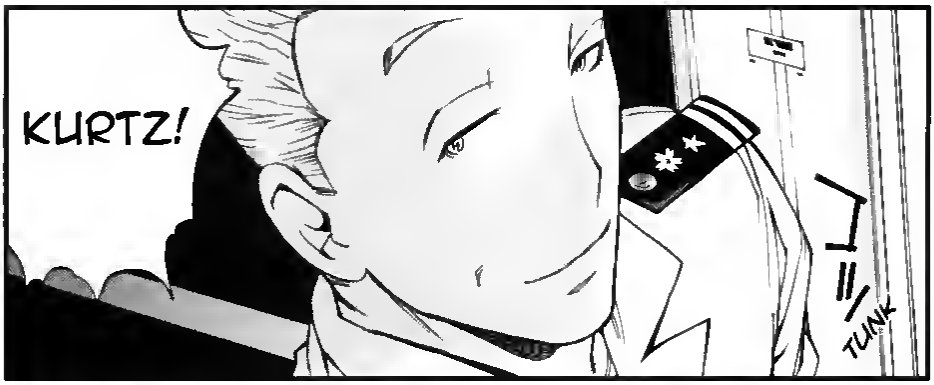
OKAY.
LOWER THE 401 INTO THE DOCK.
ROGER, CAPTAIN!
HUH? HEY!

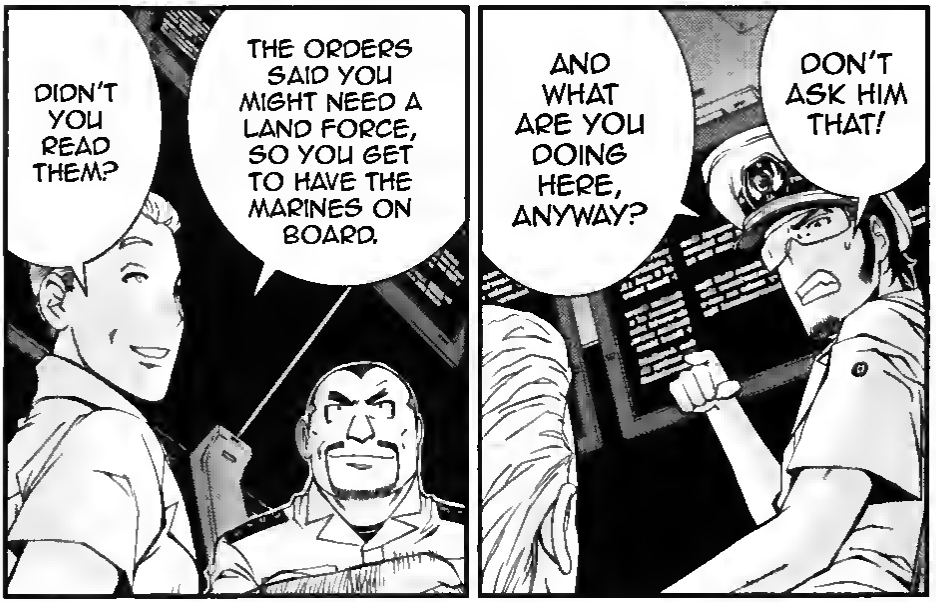
GWOOOOM
DOCK-04
DOCK-05
DOCK-06
WHOOOM

CLASS
HAKUGEI
03
CRUISING MODULE
AFFILIATION
CONTROL ARMY
GWOOOOM
OOOOM
DOCK-01
DOCK-02
DOCK-03

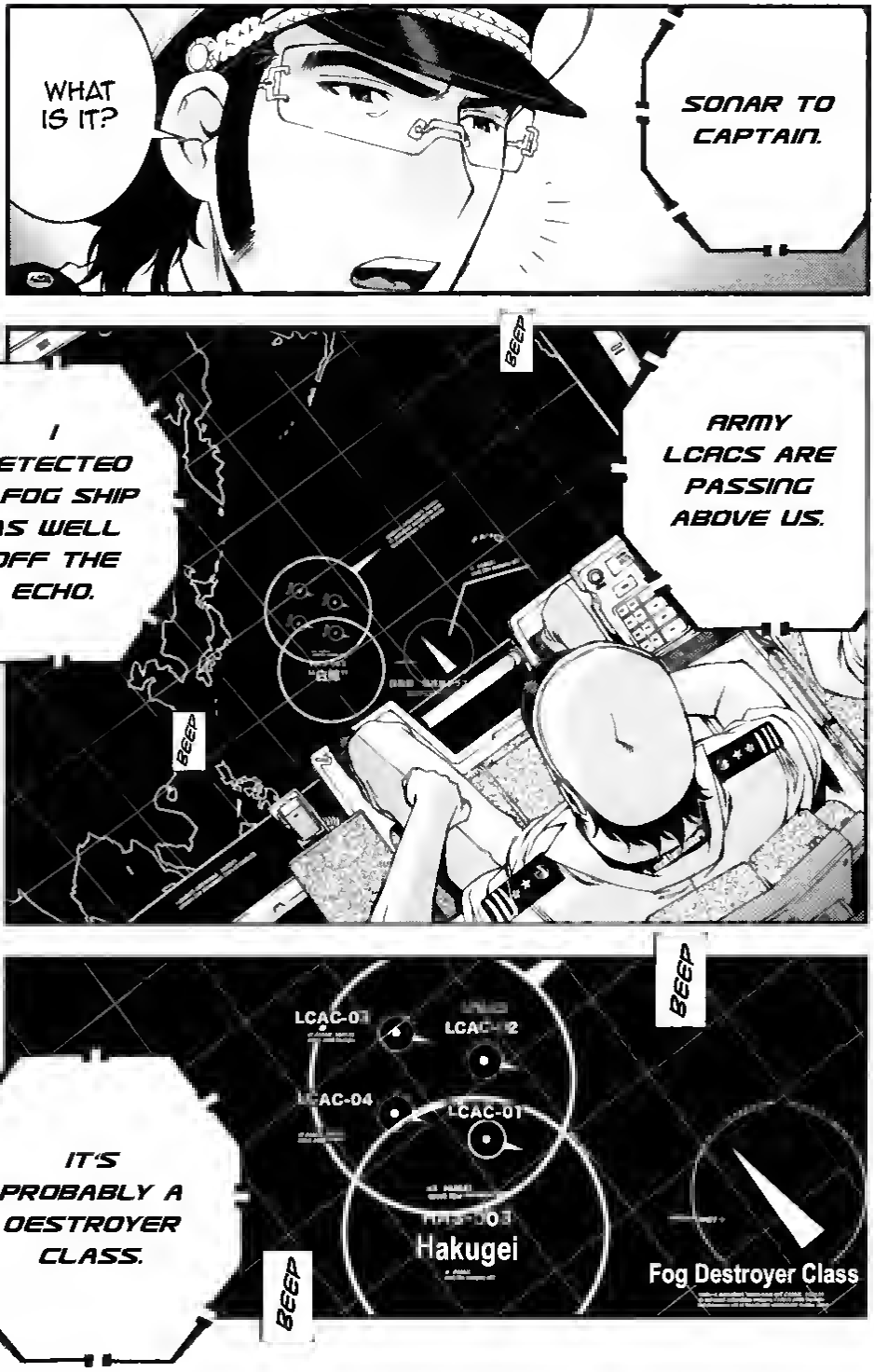
...REMINDS ME OF WHEN YOU WERE AN OFFICER CANDIDATE!
HA
SITTING UP HERE WITH YOU...
HA
HA
HA!
OH...
YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN, AND I'M NOT GOING TO BE WAVING MY VICE-ADMIRAL'S FLAG AROUND.
WELL, DON'T MIND ME.
RUN THE SHIP AS YOU PLEASE.
...THANK YOU, SIR.
RUMBLE


...WHAT WAS CAPTAIN KOMAKI LIKE WHEN HE WAS A STUDENT?
SO URAGAMI...
TUNK
TUNK


KURTZ!
TUNK


DIDN'T YOU READ THEM?
THE ORDERS SAID YOU MIGHT NEED A LAND FORCE, SO YOU GET TO HAVE THE MARINES ON BOARD.
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY?
DON'T ASK HIM THAT!

I BROUGHT MY BEST GUYS.
WHY NOT?
WHY IS THE TOP LEADER OF THE MARINES HERE?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
SO I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THE 401 AS FAR AS I CAN WITH THESE GUYS TAGGING ALONG?
はははは
HA HA HA
THAT'D BE GREAT! FROM OUR PERSPEC-TIVE, WE'D BE GOING HOME!
IF WE'RE LUCKY, MAYBE WE'LL FOLLOW THEM ALL THE WAY TO AMERICA!
はは
HA HA
は


WHAT IS IT?
SONAR TO CAPTAIN.
I DETECTED A FOG SHIP AS WELL OFF THE ECHO.
BEEP
ARMY LCACS ARE PASSING ABOVE US.
BEEP
IT'S PROBABLY A DESTROYER CLASS.
BEEP
LCAC-03
LCAC-02
LCAC-04
LCAC-01
Hakugei
Fog Destroyer Class
BEEP

SHWOOOOM
FOG DESTROYER CLASS!
STAR-BOARD!
SHWOOOOM

SHWOOOM
WE WERE COUNTING ON THAT, BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
IT'S NOT DOING ANYTHING.
THERE IT IS! ONE O' CLOCK!
IF DIET MEMBER KITA WAS RIGHT, THEN....
SHWOOOM
IWO JIMA!
WE ARE...

WE, HUMANITY...
...ARE ABOUT TO CROSS THE SEA...
ROAR
...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 17 YEARS.

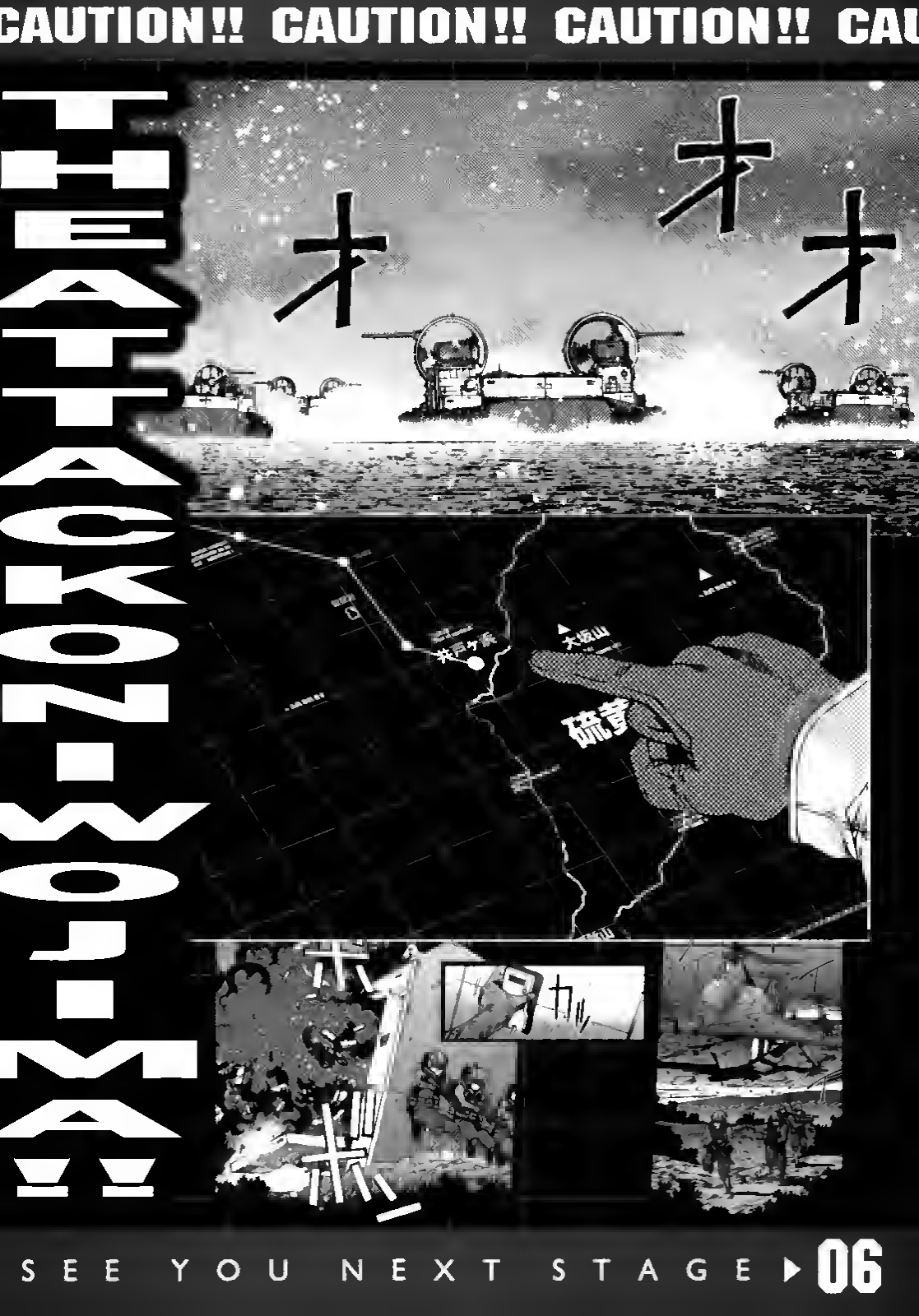
GWOOOSH
FLOODING WILL BE COMPLETE IN 15 MINUTES.
GOT IT.
AFTER THAT, WE'LL DO THE FINAL CHECKS...
...AND FINAL TUNING.
ROGER.
BLUE STEEL

GWOOOSH

Arpeggio of Blue Steel ⑤／END

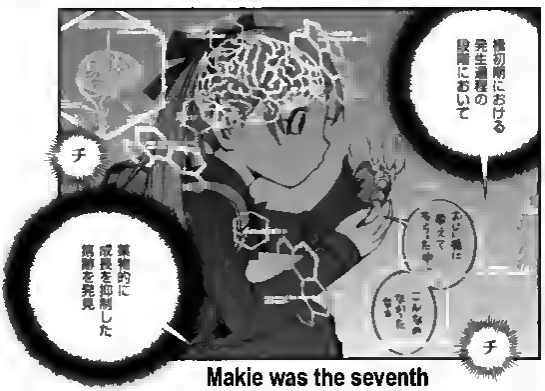
CAUTION!! CAUTION!! CAUTION!! CAU

!!ATTACK-ZOKU!!



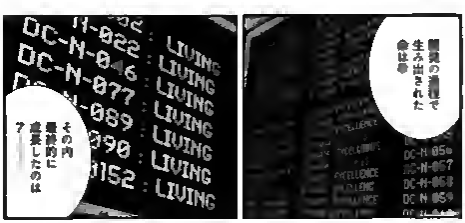
What's Design Child?

Designer Babies, Designer Children, Gene Rich... what do all these names mean?



Makie was the seventh designer child created to fight the Fog.

In addition to her brain, her personality and physical abilities were specialized as well.



The survival rate of the children was extraordinarily low.

Genetically Altered Life-forms: The invention of designer children

Just after James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the structure of DNA in 1953, "designer children" were discussed as a potential possibility by scientists and novelists. This idea, which was to select only those genes most beneficial to humanity and use them to create a new race, was in many ways, an attempt at playing god. It immediately ignited a firestorm of ethical and religious debates, and drew attention in a wide variety of forums for its ability to realize the ideals of eugenics. For mostly technological reasons, it became obvious that this was a problem for the far future, and the idea was reduced to occasionally appearing in entertainment media.

In the 20th century, the spread of the ideas of genetic determinism, the creation of a genetic map of humanity via the human genome project, and the creation of technology that allowed for genetic engineering made the idea a real possibility, and occasionally it became a matter for debate. On the technology side, the creation of 5th and 6th artificial base pairs like Ds-Pa opened the possibility of not simply recombining genes, but creating new ones. In most cases, this technology was used to cure genetic diseases, but as with so many other technologies before it, the fact that anyone with sufficient facilities, scientists and funding could use it created considerable fear. It was worried that unlimited research would allow for the creation of a so-called "Super Homo Sapiens." Thus, either for reasons of social order, ethical issues, or religious concerns, the use of genetic engineering on humans was greatly restricted in most countries, if not banned outright.

The Birth of Designer Children

But the Fog's blockade in 2039 put great pressure on Japan, and forced it to optimize every resource it had to the greatest extent possible. To achieve this end, the designer children were created. This plan was kept secret from international society, and only announced upon the birth of the first designer child. It attracted both criticism and sympathy from around the world. But due to the Fog's blockade, the rest of the world had no power to do anything but watch.

It has been reported that in 2056, one of the designer children developed a weapon capable of destroying the Fog, but due to the Fog's interference, the rest of the world doesn't know the details.

The Prime Minister of the Northern Sector is, you could say, Makie's brother. Her butler, Laurence, is actually Doctor Osakabe, the man who created them both.

蒼き鋼のアルペジオ

05

Ark Performance